



## **WILDERNESS DINNERS**

### **Conversations for Wilderness**

Escape from the evening routine of long commutes and dinner in front of a screen and connect with new friends over intriguing discussions about urgent needs and important causes. Belong to a growing number of WILD partners who host Wilderness Dinners, building a sense of community and partnership around wilderness issues and conservation. Wilderness Dinners help you share your passion for wilderness with others, enlist new allies for wild nature, and have fun around the informality, openness, and intimacy of the dinner table. Every movement starts with a conversation – expand momentum for a wilder future and host a Wilderness Dinner.





## HOW TO HOST A WILDERNESS DINNER

**STEP 1:** Two weeks in advance, invite 8-15 people or however many guests your kitchen and dining room will comfortably hold. For optimal comfort and networking potential, keep the guest cap at around 15 and focus on inviting those who have an affinity for nature and wilderness.

- It's usually best to invite a mix of people, some who know each other and some who do not.
- Choose a private location where conversation can be comfortably heard, usually a home or secluded room in a restaurant.
- Select an opening question from the list of questions provided by the WILD Foundation.
- Solicit brief bios (100-150 words) from the participants of the dinner. Send these out to confirmed guests along with the question selected.
- Select a dinner moderator – someone with an easy-going style and who can move the conversation around gently.
- Calls 48 hours in advance are an effective reminders for guests who have confirmed attendance.

### **STEP 2: During the dinner.**

- 7 PM: Cocktails and light conversation
- 7:30 PM: Moderator opens by explaining the ground rules – most importantly, no talking to your neighbor. Conversation is directed to the entire table.
- Ask each person to respond to the opening question.
- Let the conversation begin!
- Moderator introduces a follow-up question to link the opening answers to the general theme of the evening.
- Moderator should prevent any one or two guests from dominating the conversation while keeping the conversation relevant.
- 9 PM: Moderator asks guests how they would like to follow-up on the ideas expressed during the discussion. Host/moderator might mention at this time his or her partnership with the WILD Foundation and how he or she is helping WILD protect wilderness through connecting people, wildlife, and wilderness for collective impact. (If contacted in advance, WILD can provide brochures to hand out at this time.)
- 9:15 PM: End dinner. Informal, one-on-one discussions usually continue at this time.

### **STEP 3: After the dinner (usually within one week).**

- Follow-up with the participants, helping them connect with one another and with WILD if so desired. WILD is always available for one-on-one meetings with dinner attendees.