

The Thanksgiving Games Night Planner

A printable companion to 40 Thanksgiving games for the whole family

Print this planner and keep it with the games. It gives you all forty games as a tick list, a supply checklist, the setup notes for the minute-to-win-it games, a score sheet, an age guide and a next-year page — everything you need without scrolling back through the article.

The 40 Games, as a Tick List

Tick what you actually played. Three or four games is a good Thanksgiving; more than six and someone will be tired.

- Face the Pie
- The Mayflower
- Shake Your Tail Feathers
- Feather Float
- Football Flick
- The Goblet Gobble
- Please Pass the Corn
- Traffic Yam
- Reverse Traffic Yam
- Corn to Copia
- Turkey Bowl
- A Bit Corny
- Hut, Hut, Hoop
- Linemen
- Thanksgiving Jeopardy
- The Price Is Right
- Thanksgiving Wishes
- Pumpkin Roll
- This or That
- Thanksgiving Bingo
- Outburst
- Thanksgiving Pictionary
- Thanksgiving Scattergories
- Thanksgiving Trivia
- The Thanksgiving Word Game
- The Matching Game
- The Floor Game
- Turkey Hunt
- Get a Turkey

- Thanksgiving Family Feud
- Thanksgiving Charades
- Would You Rather
- The Thanksgiving Dice Game
- Turkey Talk
- Cup Football
- Pick a Play
- Gratitude Punch
- Gratitude Skittles
- Turkey Trot
- Pin the Feather on the Turkey

Choose Your Games

Write down the games you are actually playing, and name the person running each one. Games without an owner do not happen.

Game 1 — who runs it, and where

Game 2 — who runs it, and where

Game 3 — who runs it, and where

Game 4 — who runs it, and where

Supply List

Section	Item	On hand?
Minute to win it	Two aluminium pie tins	
Minute to win it	Spray whipped cream (or a tub)	
Minute to win it	A long shallow storage tub for water	
Minute to win it	Corks, plastic straws, tissue boxes	

Section	Item	On hand?
Minute to win it	Feathers and a bag of dried corn	
Minute to win it	A stopwatch or a phone timer	
Table games	Paper, pens and a pad for drawing	
Table games	A deck of playing cards	
Table games	A printed bingo card set	
Table games	A small bell or buzzer	
Living room	Two or three board games you already own	
Living room	A soft ball and a set of plastic cups	
Living room	A bowl of wrapped sweets	
Kids	Felt or card turkey shape and paper feathers	
Kids	Glue stick, crayons, blunt scissors	
Prizes	Small wrapped prizes or sweets for the winners	

Buy the pie tins, the corks and the dried corn in one trip in early November. The single most common reason a game never gets played is that one small thing was missing.

Minute to Win It: Setup Notes

These are the games people ask for again. Each one needs a little setting up before the day, and each one runs in about a minute per player.

Game	You need	Setup before the day
Face the Pie	Pie tins, whipped cream, gummy letters	Chill the filled tins in the fridge
The Mayflower	Water tub, corks, straws	Fill the tub and set it on a towel
Shake Your Tail Feathers	Tissue boxes, feathers	Load the boxes and tape the openings
Feather Float	Feathers, a stopwatch	None — play it on the spot
Football Flick	A folded paper football, a table	Fold the footballs in advance
The Goblet Gobble	Plastic cups, dried corn	Count the corn into equal piles
Please Pass the Corn	Dried corn, a bowl, a straw	None — play it on the spot
Traffic Yam	A yam, a table, a stopwatch	None — play it on the spot
Corn to Copia	Dried corn, a small cup	None — play it on the spot
Turkey Bowl	Plastic cups, a soft ball	Build the cup pyramid
A Bit Corny	Dried corn, a bowl, a spoon	None — play it on the spot

Game	You need	Setup before the day
Hut, Hut, Hoop	Paper cups, a hoop or bin	Set the hoop at a fair height
Linemen	A long table, two teams	Clear the table first

Set a hard one-minute limit and use a visible timer. Half the fun of these games is the countdown, and a game that runs long stops being funny.

Score Sheet

One row per player or per team. Write the game in the column heading and tally as you go.

Player or team	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Game 4	Total

What Works at Each Age

Age	What holds attention	What to avoid
Under 2	Watching the minute games; holding a feather	Anything with small parts or a rule
2 – 4	Feather Float, Pin the Feather, the dice game	Waiting for a turn; timed games
5 – 7	Bingo, charades, the turkey hunt, the dice game	Trivia and word games that need reading
8 – 10	Minute games, Pictionary, Cup Football, Bingo	Being given a job with no real stakes
11 – 13	Running a game for the younger ones; Scattergories	Being treated as a babysitter all day
14 +	Trivia, Family Feud, Outburst, running the score sheet	Busywork. Give them something that matters

Before You Start

- The games are chosen and written down, and someone owns each one
- The timer is charged and visible to everyone
- The table is cleared and the floor space is clear
- Every game has a prize, even a small one
- The youngest player has a job in every game, not just a turn
- One adult is on tidying duty, and it is not the host

- The score sheet and a pen are on the table
- Nothing is scheduled after the last game

Prizes and Small Touches

A game with nothing at stake is a game people drift away from. The prize does not need to be worth anything — it needs to be handed over in front of everyone.

Prize	Cost	Why it works
A wrapped bar of chocolate	Low	Wrapping it is what makes it feel like a prize
First pick of dessert	Free	Costs nothing and is genuinely contested
The turkey trophy for a year	One-off	A cheap ornament on a stand; the holder signs the base
Choosing the next game	Free	The best prize for a mixed-age group
A jar of the good jam	Low	Something from your own kitchen beats anything bought

Hand the prize over out loud, with a name attached. A prize given quietly is not a prize, it is an object.

Next Year's List

Write this before you clear the table. It is the only page that gets better every year.

The games that actually got played

The ones we will not repeat

Who we want at the table next year

One new game to try next year

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