

Digital Potluck

Mids Meinberg

Golden Cobra 2025

This is a game about the culture of eating and the connections of a shared meal, even one over a great distance. In this game, you do not play a character, but rather seek to embody the best parts of yourself, to share what you love about cooking and eating, and to accept what others bring to the table. It requires a video chat, time to cook, and about ninety minutes for the meal itself.

This game is played over a video chat, where all participants cook a dish from their past, then they all share that meal over the chat.

Preparation

As facilitator, decide on a time and a discord server. Make a new server if you need to, but if you have access to a discord with a video chat that you can use, that's perfectly fine.

To determine what dish you want to make, find something you liked as a kid, something delicious and meaningful to

you. If you have access to family recipes, use those. If not, find a version of the recipe online.

Make sure to get all the ingredients you need ahead of time.

Cooking

Cook as the recipe instructs. Cook as your heart demands. When these are in conflict, follow your instincts. If there are others in your household who would enjoy your meal, make enough for them. If the meal will keep in the fridge, make some leftovers.

Aim to finish cooking just in time for the call to start; you want everyone to bring their meals together simultaneously.

Plate the dish according to your remaining energy, but don't be afraid to be fancy. This should feel special, but should not be overtaxing.

The Meal

The facilitator should be the one running the chat. Start the chat a few minutes early so people can settle in, but give a few minutes after the official start time for stragglers to arrive. Those that are comfortable doing so should join the video chat. Seeing the meals is part of the pleasure for the others present, but does not take priority over an individual's comfort. Do not pressure anyone who wishes to remain voice only.

Then, the facilitator begins the discussion. During these segments, allow the featured speaker to talk as much or as little as they wish. Others can ask questions after the speaker is finished,

but they are by no means required to answer. For each topic, make sure everyone has a chance to talk. After a topic of discussion is complete, let conversation continue naturally, moving onto the next topic as soon as conversation begins to wane.

Go through as many topics as time allows. Do not try to rush through to complete all topics. Do not extend the chat time unless everyone is interested in continuing. If you've gone through all topics, feel free to bring the chat to an early ending, so long as everyone has finished eating and there is nothing more to talk about.

Topics to Discuss

What dish have you brought?

Why did you choose this dish?

What did you learn by cooking your dish?

Does your dish taste like you remember it?

How does your dish connect you with your past?

Do you want to share a specific memory associated with the dish?

Will you make your dish again?

Wrap Up

As the chat comes to a close, thank everyone for participating. As facilitator and host, you can take a moment to highlight things that were special about this event. Afterwards, create a text chat for continued conversation and discussion. Direct participants to talk about their experiences and their thoughts there.

Encourage everyone to wash their dishes. Encourage everyone that feels comfortable to share their recipes.

Next Time

Next time you play, try another recipe. This can be another childhood recipe or it can be a recipe that someone made last time. Spread the joys of this game widely. Make a habit of playing this game with people in your community.

