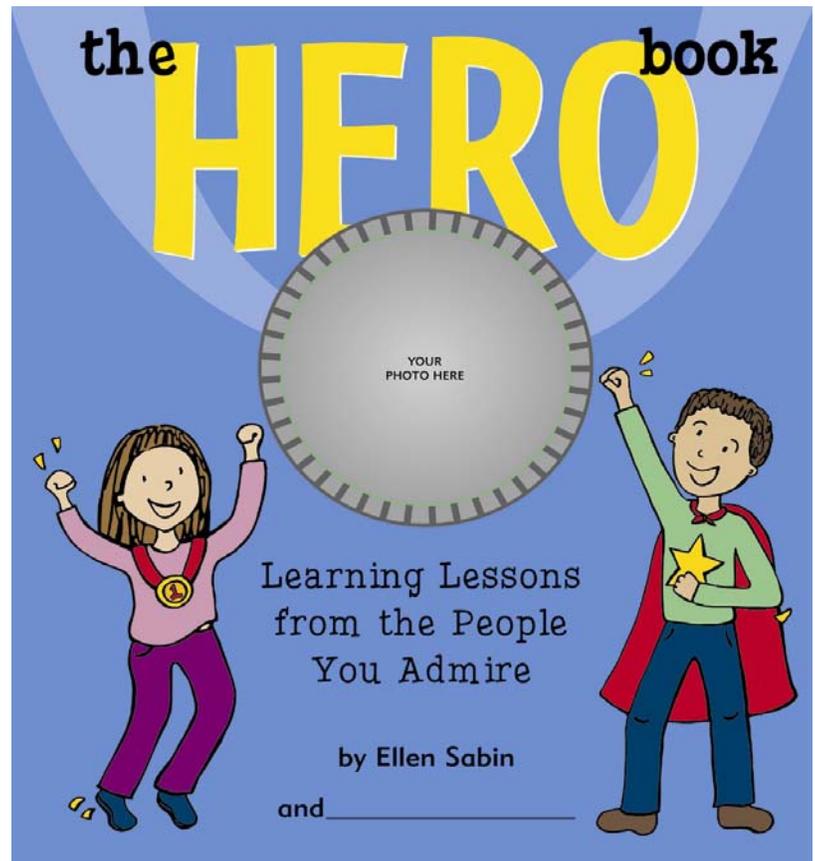




## WHAT IS A HERO PARTY?

A Hero Party is a unique opportunity for your child and his or her friends to come together, have a great time while exploring the qualities they admire in others and celebrating the hero inside themselves. Ideally, each child at the party would have their own copy of *The Hero Book* since this book is designed to be customized by the child and become a scrapbook of the characteristics they respect in their role models and an inspiration to emulate those qualities in their own lives. You can decide whether you'd like to provide each child at the party with a copy of the book or ask each guest's parents to be responsible for obtaining the book.

This party guide contains just a few ideas for creating an exciting party that has purpose in its ability to combine fun with a powerful character education experience.



## HERO PARTY OVERVIEW:

The Hero Party, as described in this guide, has seven different activities.

- Personalizing the Book
- Introduction/Setting The Stage
- "My Heroes" Discussion/Sharing
- "Certificate" Activity
- "Characteristic Charades" Activity
- "Talent Show" Activity
- "I'm a Hero Too" Activity

Of course you may customize the party in a way that best fits your space, timing and the group of children in attendance. You can also refer to the Teacher's Guide available at [www.wateringcanpress.com](http://www.wateringcanpress.com) for additional activity possibilities.



### **Invitations/Guest Prep:**

Page 5 of this PDF is an invitation that you can print out or you can make something similar yourself. We suggest that you have your child fill out the invitations for the guests and then glue them to the front of a 9x12 envelope (available at any office supply store). If you are mailing the invites, you can slip the invitation page inside the envelope for mailing. The envelope will then become a tool for holding the things your guest will bring to the party as part of their preparation. As you can see on the invitation, your guest's prep for the Hero Party is to bring in pictures or other items that represent their heroes – both the ones they know and the ones they see on television or read about. These items will be used as part of the day's activities. Each guest will also need to bring a 3"x5" or 4"x6" picture of him/herself. Make sure the parents know this picture might need to be trimmed to fit in the book.

### **Decoration Ideas:**

You can make the decorations for your Hero Party as simple or as elaborate as you'd like. We suggest using admirable "characteristics" in your decorating scheme. Using colored poster board, cut out different shaped signs and write an admirable quality of a hero on each. Some examples from the book are: courage, talent, honesty, helpful, hard worker, confident, kind, creative, athletic, smart. Hang these all around the area where your activities will take place. You can accent them with balloons, streamers, etc.

### **Food and Snack Suggestions:**

If you want to serve refreshments, here are some ideas. On Page 35 of the book, you'll see some icons representing different qualities of a hero. If you are artistic, create cookies and use icing to replicate the icons on the cookies to reiterate the theme of the event. You can also play off the "hero" theme by serving "Power Bars" or other products that make us think of energy, strength and endurance. Have fun with the refreshments and make your menu playful and practical.

### **Activities:**

After your guests arrive, you want them to all be seated with their *Hero Book* so they can all see and hear the adult(s) leading the party. They could be seated around a table or on the floor in a living room or family room. If the weather is nice, they could be in a back yard or on a patio. Each child will need room to spread out their book and participate in some arts and crafts projects.

#### *Personalizing the Book:*

When you initially give each child their book, explain that it is truly THEIR book and they are encouraged to complete the activities and write in the book as they wish. If you are providing the books for all the children, make sure you complete the "letter" on page 3 of the book by writing in the guest's name and your or your child's name at the bottom. As a group activity,

have each child put their picture in the sleeve on the inside cover of the book. If they have brought a 4x6 picture, they will need to trim it slightly to get the best fit. Have the children write their names on the appropriate line on the first page of the book.

*Introduction/Setting the Stage:*

You want to tell the guests that this party is going to be a lot of fun and that they will all be learning more about what they admire in their heroes and how they are heroes themselves. Make sure they know there are exciting activities ahead! As an introduction, read aloud pages 7-11 of *The Hero Book* and have the children follow along. Depending on the ages of the guests, you could even have them to take turns reading. Let discussion flow and encourage them to ask questions.

*"My Heroes" Discussion:*

Ask the children to pull out the pictures and other things they brought in their envelope that represent their heroes. Have them turn to pages 52 and 53 – the scrapbook and journal portion of the book. Have some glue sticks and scissors on hand and let them paste some of their pictures in this section of the book. Go around the room and ask each of the children to share the things they brought and explain why these people are their heroes. Encourage them to look at the characteristics on your wall decorations and mention those qualities if their heroes represent them.

*"Hero Certificate" Activity:*

Read pages 12 and 14 to the children and discuss the difference between "well-known heroes" and "everyday heroes." Have them complete page 15 and record some of their "everyday heroes" and list the reasons they admire these people. Page six of this PDF is a certificate. Print out three or four copies of this certificate for each guest. Have the children fill out and decorate each certificate for one of their "everyday heroes," whether it be a family member, teacher, friend, neighbor, etc. When this activity is finished, encourage them to give the certificate to their heroes the next time they see them. Make sure they put the completed certificates in their envelope so they won't forget them.

*"Characteristics Charade" Activity*

This activity is going to take some space and some focus, but it will be both fun, stimulating and educational for the children. We suggest you do this in the yard or in a large, open room. A sign with one of the characteristics used for your wall decorations is taped on the back of each child at the party randomly. If there are more children than "qualities," you can use each word more than once. In this activity, the children don't get to see the characteristic taped to their back. It will be the other children's job to pantomime the characteristic to them. When you say "GO," all the children will pair off, look at each other's sign and then, without speaking, begin to try and relay the word. Each additional time you say "GO," the children have to swap partners. Do this five or six times and then have the children guess which characteristic is on their sign.

*“The Talent Show” Activity:*

This is a great activity to do while the children are enjoying their refreshments. Remind them that “talent” was one of the traits that people may admire in their role models. Explain that they are going to put on an impromptu talent show. Designate an area of the room as a “stage” and let the children volunteer to come up one at a time and share a quick talent – a song, a joke, a story, a dance, a trick, or a funny face. The more you decorate the stage area with a curtain or lights, the more fun the activity will be. Encourage children who are shy to take part as well, even if they just tell a quick story or joke.

*“I’m a Hero Too” Activity*

Have the children turn to page 47 in their books. Explain that everyone has hero qualities and we can also work to be more like the people we respect. Have them write some of the hero qualities they have in the boxes provided on page 47. It’s now time for them to make their own hero medals to take home. Prior to the party, cut circles (about 5 inches in diameter) from cardboard. Make a hole in the top of the circle. Give each child a circle and let them decorate one side like a medal – you can provide glue, glitter, paint, aluminum foil, markers. Encourage them to incorporate the word “Hero” into their design. On the back of the medal, have them write all the characteristics they recorded on page 47. When complete, help them thread ribbon through the hole creating a medal they can wear around their necks with pride.

Make sure that all the guests leave with their book, their envelope, their “Hero Certificates,” and their medal.

**More activity ideas are available at [www.wateringcanpress.com](http://www.wateringcanpress.com).  
We also offer discounts on purchases of 10 books or more through our site.**





YOU ARE INVITED TO A

# HERO PARTY



\_\_\_\_\_ would like to invite you to a very special party where we'll have lots of fun while we discover what makes our heroes special and how we are all heroes too!!

**WHEN:**

**WHERE:**

Make sure you or your parents call us at \_\_\_\_\_ to let us know you'll be attending our Hero Party!!

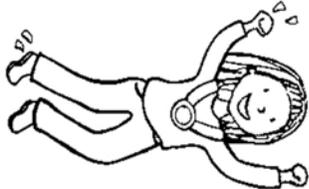
## **WHAT TO BRING!!!**

Write your name on your envelope and feel free to color this invitation!! Then use this envelope to collect pictures or other things that remind you of your heroes. Your heroes can be people you know from home, school or in the community. Your heroes can also be people you see on TV or that you read about. A hero is anyone who you admire and think is really special for who they are and the things they do!! Make sure you also put a picture of yourself in your envelope that is either 3"x5" or 4"x6". You're a hero too!!

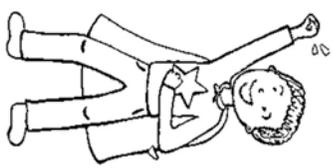
Remember to bring this envelope and everything you put in it to the party!!

NAME OF RECIPIENT \_\_\_\_\_

**I'M GIVING YOU THIS CERTIFICATE TO LET YOU KNOW THAT I THINK YOU'RE A**



# HERO



I wanted to let you know some of the things I admire about you. I wrote down some of the qualities and characteristics that you have that make you a hero to me.

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DATE \_\_\_\_\_ YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_