

Open Chair Thanksgiving — Safety & Respect Guidelines

1. Respect and Kindness Come First

Treat everyone with dignity and courtesy. Be patient and open-minded with people whose backgrounds or experiences may differ from your own. Listen as much as you talk — this is about sharing and connecting, not debating or persuading.

2. Keep It About Connection, Not Conversion

Please do not use the meal to promote political, religious, or commercial ideas. No recruiting, campaigning, or proselytizing of any kind. Focus on shared humanity — food, gratitude, stories, laughter, and kindness.

3. Privacy and Safety

Your personal information will only be shared with your confirmed match and never published publicly. We recommend first contact through text or phone before meeting in person. If something doesn't feel right, you are never obligated to meet. Contact us immediately at info@indivisiblebrowncounty.org.

4. Hosts: Creating a Welcoming Environment

Make sure your space is clean, safe, and smoke-free unless otherwise agreed. Respect dietary restrictions, sobriety preferences, and allergies. Pets should be contained if guests are uncomfortable. Alcohol may be served only if everyone is comfortable with it.

5. Guests: Being a Gracious Visitor

Be punctual, bring a dish or card, if possible, and respect house rules. If you must cancel, notify your host and our coordination team as soon as possible.

6. Mutual Respect and Autonomy

All participation is voluntary. No one is obligated to stay longer than they wish. Keep physical boundaries in mind — handshakes and hugs only with mutual consent.

7. Reporting Concerns

If at any point you feel uncomfortable or something seems inappropriate, contact our coordination team at info@indivisiblebrowncounty.org. All reports are confidential and handled with discretion.

8. Our Community Commitment

Every participant — host, guest, or volunteer — is part of making this project a success. By signing up, you agree to welcome others with respect, communicate clearly, act in good faith, and create joy in our community. Together, we're proving that Brown County truly is stronger together.