

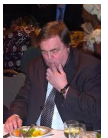


# DINING ETIQUETTE ...JUST THE BASICS

Presented by: SMI/MI Northridge High School

# What we will cover:

- General Social and Dining Etiquette Rules
- The formal table setting
- Serving Food, Passing Dishes
- Short video
- Table Manners
- Why Manners Matter
- Eating
- Tipping
- Dress Code
- Ball Sequence of events



# General Social and Dining Etiquette Rules:

## **A dinner party or a formal dinner:**

**Dress Code:** Follow whatever dress code is requested on the invitation or suggested by the host/hostess.

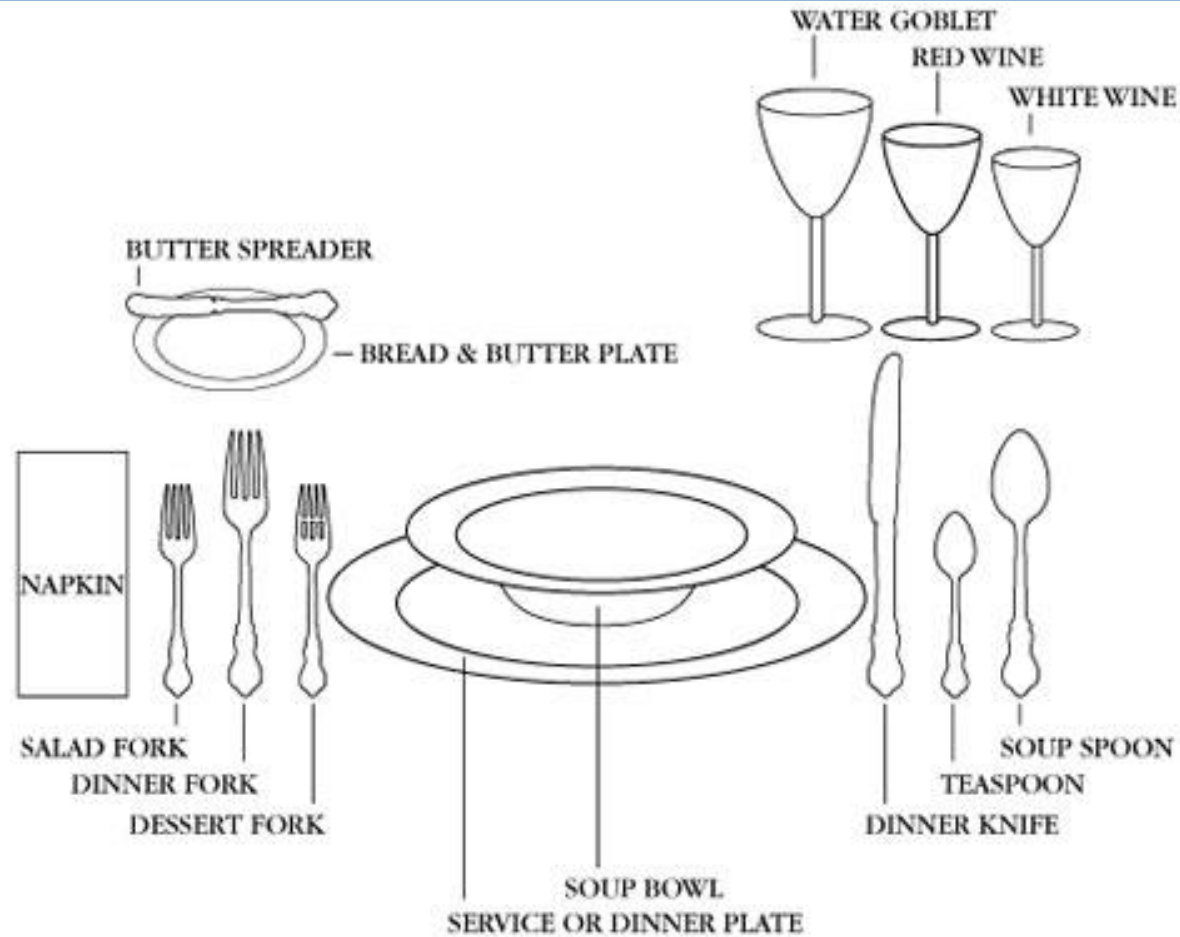
**Arrival:** Arrive at least 10 minutes early unless otherwise specified.

**Never arrive late!**

**Seating:** At a dinner party or formal event, wait for the host or hostess sits down before taking your seat. If the host/hostess asks you to sit, then do. At a very formal dinner party, if there are no name cards at the table, wait until the host indicates where you should sit. The seating will typically be man-woman-man-woman with the women seated to the right of the men.

**Thank You Note:** After any formal dinner party, a thank you note should be sent to the hostess. Depending on how well you know your hosts, a telephone call is also acceptable.

# Formal Table Setting



# General Dining and Social Etiquette

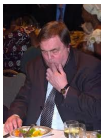
- **Serving food:**
- Food is served from the left. Dishes are removed from the right.
- Always say please when asking for something. At a restaurant, be sure to say thank you to your server and bus boy after they have removed any used items.
- Butter, spreads, or dips should be transferred from the serving dish to your plate before spreading or eating.
- **Passing dishes or food:**
- Pass food from the left to the right. Do not stretch across the table, crossing other guests, to reach food or condiments.
- If another diner asks for the salt or pepper, pass both together, even if a table mate asks for only one of them. This is so dinner guests won't have to search for orphaned shakers.
- Set any passed item, whether it's the salt and pepper shakers, a bread basket, or a butter plate, directly on the table instead of passing hand-to-hand.
- Never intercept a pass. Snagging a roll out of the breadbasket or taking a shake of salt when it is en route to someone else is a no-no.
- Always use serving utensils to serve yourself, not your personal silverware.

# Why etiquette matters!



# Table Manners:

- Unfold your napkin and place it on your lap. When you are finished, place it loosely on the table, not on the plate and never on your chair. If you leave the table during the meal place your napkin in the chair.
- Keep elbows off the table. Keep your unused hand in your lap. Do not talk with your mouth full. Chew with your mouth closed.
- Guests should do their best to mingle and make light conversation with everyone. Do not talk excessively loud. Give others equal opportunities for conversation. Talk about cheerful, pleasant things at the table.
- Don't clean up spills with your own napkin and don't touch items that have dropped on the floor. You can use your napkin to protect yourself from spills. Then, simply and politely ask your server to clean up and to bring you a replacement for the soiled napkin or dirty utensil.
- Loud eating noises such as slurping and burping are very impolite. The number one sin of dinner table etiquette!



# Table Manners, cont'd.

- Do not blow your nose at the dinner table. Excuse yourself to visit the restroom. Wash your hands before returning to the dining room. If you cough, cover your mouth with your napkin to stop the spread of germs and muffle the noise. If your cough becomes unmanageable, excuse yourself to visit the restroom. Wash your hands before returning to the dining room.
- **Turn off your cell phone or switch it to silent or vibrate mode before sitting down to eat, and leave it in your pocket or purse.** It is impolite to answer a phone during dinner. If you must make or take a call, excuse yourself from the table and step outside of the restaurant.
- Do not use a toothpick or apply makeup at the table.
- Say "Excuse me," or "I'll be right back," before leaving the table. Do not say that you are going to the restroom.
- Whenever a woman leaves the table or returns to sit, all men seated with her should stand up.
- Do not push your dishes away from you or stack them for the waiter when you are finished. Leave plates and glasses where they are.



# Eating:

- ❑ **Do NOT talk with food in your mouth!** This is very rude and distasteful to watch! Wait until you have swallowed the food in your mouth.
- ❑ Always taste your food before seasoning it. Usually the hostess has gone to a lot of work making sure the food served is delicious to her standards. **It is very rude to add salt and pepper before tasting the food.**
- ❑ Don't blow on your food to cool it off. If it is too hot to eat, take the hint and wait until it cools.
- ❑ Always scoop food, using the proper utensil, **away from you.**
- ❑ Cut only enough food for the next mouthful (**cut no more than two bites of food at a time**). Eat in small bites and slowly.
- ❑ Don't make an issue if you don't like something or can't eat it – **keep silence.**
- ❑ Break your bread into small bites and then butter it.



# Eating cont'd.

- ❑ Even if you have dietary restrictions, it is inappropriate to request food other than that which is being served by the host at a private function. If you have serious dietary restrictions or allergies, let your host know in advance of the dinner.
- ❑ Do not "play with" your food or utensils. Never wave or point silverware. Do not hold food on the fork or spoon while talking, nor wave your silverware in the air or point with it.
- ❑ Try to pace your eating so that you don't finish before others are halfway through. If you are a slow eater, try to speed up a bit on this occasion so you don't hold everyone up. Never continue to eat long after others have stopped.
- ❑ Once used, your utensils, including the handles, must not touch the table again. Always rest forks, knives, and spoons on the side of your plate or on the saucer of a bowl.

# What to wear

- Acceptable attire for Northridge Marine Corps JROTC Ball



# What not to wear...

- ❑ To the Northridge Marine Corps JROTC Ball



# Sequence of Events:

- Ladies & Gentlemen: 10, 5, welcome, invocation, please be seated.
- MIA table: Narration - Description about
- Adjutant: Sound Attention, Sound Adjutants call.
- COT: Honor Guard (sword detail) marches in.
  - Please rise for the SMI/GOH.
  - March on the Colors: Rise for the National Anthem
  - Color guard marches off.
- Cake Escort: Cutting of the cake.
  - GOH, Oldest, Youngest Marines are recognized.
  - Cake escort walks off.
- Veteran Recognition: Please stand up.
- Flag detail: Old Glory
- Retire the colors: Color Guard, Honor Guard marches off.