## **Checklist: Hot Drink Party Essentials**

- Candles (unscented for near food/drinks)

- Natural decor (pinecones, greenery, dried fruit)

Decor and Ambiance:

- String lights or fairy lights

- Blankets and cushions

| - Music playlist (soft jazz, acoustic, or holiday tunes) |
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| Hot Drink Bar:   |
| Base Drinks:   |
| - Hot chocolate  |
| - Spiced apple cider                                     |
| - Coffee and/or espresso                                 |
| - Chai tea latte   |
| - Warm water for tea options (herbal, black, green)      |
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| Toppings and Mix-Ins:                                    |
| - Whipped cream  |
| - Marshmallows (classic and mini)                        |
| - Chocolate shavings or cocoa powder                     |
| - Cinnamon sticks and ground cinnamon                    |
| - Candy canes (whole or crushed)                         |
| - Star anise and nutmeg                                  |
| - Flavored syrups (vanilla, caramel, hazelnut)           |
| - Liqueurs (Bailey's, Kahlúa, spiced rum)                |
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Treats:

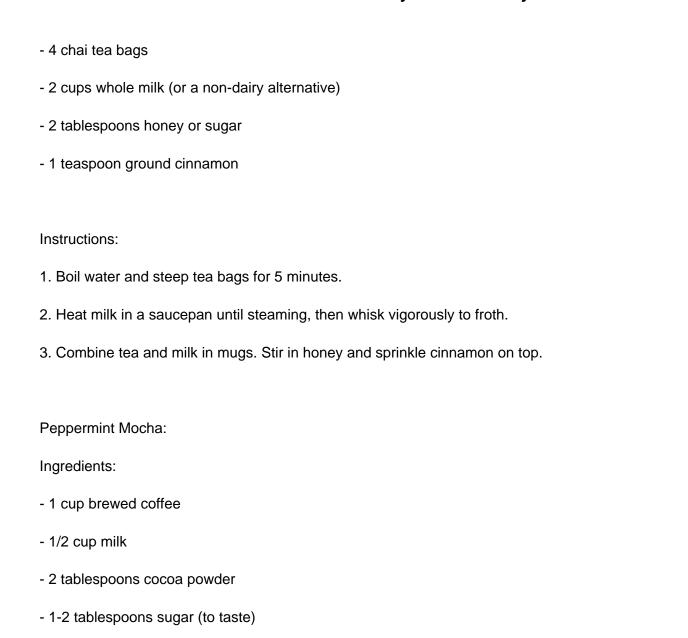
Sweet:

- Cookies (gingerbread, shortbread, chocolate chip)

- Mini pastries (cinnamon rolls, scones, croissants)

| - Chocolate-dipped fruits or pretzels                              |
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| - Cake (pound cake, bundt cake, or cupcakes)                       |
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| Savory:  |
| - Mini sandwiches (smoked salmon, turkey sliders)                  |
| - Cheese board with crackers and nuts                              |
| - Soup shooters (butternut squash or tomato bisque)                |
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| Extras:  |
| - Insulated carafes or slow cookers                                |
| - Mug-decorating station materials (markers, stencils, blank mugs) |
| - Small gift bags for favors (mini cocoa mix jars, candles, etc.)  |
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| Hot Drink Recipes  |
| Rich Hot Chocolate:  |
| Ingredients:   |
| - 4 cups whole milk  |
| - 1 cup heavy cream  |
| - 1 cup dark chocolate chips                                       |
| - 2 tablespoons cocoa powder                                       |
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| - 1/4 cup sugar (adjust to taste)  |
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| - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract   |
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| Instructions:  |
| 1. Heat milk and cream in a saucepan over medium heat until steaming.                                  |
| 2. Add chocolate chips, cocoa powder, and sugar, whisking until fully melted.                          |
| 3. Stir in vanilla extract and serve hot. Top with whipped cream, marshmallows, or chocolate shavings. |
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| Spiced Apple Cider:  |
| Ingredients:   |
| - 8 cups apple cider   |
| - 2 cinnamon sticks  |
| - 4 whole cloves   |
| - 2 star anise   |
| - 1 orange, sliced   |
| - 1/4 cup brown sugar (optional)   |
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| Instructions:  |
| 1. Combine all ingredients in a slow cooker or large pot.  |
| 2. Heat on low for 2-3 hours, stirring occasionally.   |
| 3. Strain spices before serving. Garnish with a cinnamon stick or orange slice.                        |
|  |
| Chai Tea Latte:  |
| Ingredients:   |
| - 4 cups water   |



#### Instructions:

1. Heat milk, cocoa powder, and sugar in a saucepan until smooth.

- Whipped cream and crushed candy canes for topping

2. Stir in coffee and peppermint extract.

- 1/4 teaspoon peppermint extract

3. Pour into mugs and top with whipped cream and crushed candy canes.