My roommates and I want to throw a party for our friend's birthday. How can we avoid getting red-tagged or having the cops break it up, especially since we want to have alcohol?

By making safer choices. Avoid serving hard alcohol, be sure to have food and water available to guests, and be a good neighbor. Tell your neighbors that you plan to celebrate and ask them to contact you if noise becomes an issue. Set your party for a defined amount of time, let your neighbors know what that is, and stick to it.

Also, keep the number of attendees/guests reasonable. Invite good friends or people you know (avoid randomness), and monitor your noise level. Large parties are much more likely to be red-tagged. Even though you may be partying off-campus, if police become involved the UA will be notified.

Red Tags can be issued by UAPD, TPD and/or Pima County Sheriff’s Office for excessive noise, underage drinking, or illegal parking at residences off-campus. Your apartment/house may be tagged for 180 days, and the landlord/property owner will be notified. You may also owe up to $1500 in fines.

Don’t forget, if you are under 21, it is illegal to have any alcohol in your body. You can be fined, referred to a diversion program, and/or ordered to perform community service. If you collect money for your party, you can be charged with the illegal sale of alcohol as well.

Always remember to help friends get home safely and to clean up after your party. You, your roommates, and your neighbors will appreciate it. Be safe and have fun!