

CRAFT A

RETREAT TO REMEMBER

Make this year's retreat an event, not a necessary evil. Here are some ideas to rouse the troops!

1. Share the Dream

Kick off the event with an introduction to your updated mission and vision. Invite their input and comments to build a shared commitment.

2. Go Hollywood

Design a “trailer” that creates interest and excitement in the coming retreat. Hype the event with some clever publicity.

3. Move Outdoors

Outdoor play isn't just for kids. Get the team out of the "bored room" environment to generate energy.

4. Rouse the Senses

Incorporate stimulating activities such as food-tasting events, artistic interpretations, and physical movement. Try creating a skit or music video to introduce the coming year's goals or something else to get people actively engaged.

5. Build Connections

Between discussions and presentations, set aside some time for teamwork and relationships. Try random pairings or organize a scavenger hunt. Get resourceful!

6. Award Champions

Build competition into the schedule. Challenge teams to design a program or solve a problem or come up with a new idea.

7. Inspire with a Theme

Take a lesson from the private sector and brand your retreat with a slogan.

8. Add a Facilitator

Don't underestimate the impact of a master of ceremonies. The best musical score can fall flat without a masterful conductor.

9. Produce Excitement

Research suggests that learning is enhanced when emotions are involved. Include a "wow" experience, but be sensible. Avoid lawsuits, but push beyond the usual zones.

10. Remember TISP

Make each member feel Trusted, Important, Special, and Pleased. Great party hosts know this: "Make sure every guest feels he or she is the most important."