

Do-It-Yourself Activities Ideas JANUARY - DECEMBER

DIY

Activities Ideas Guide



Overview

This Do-It-Yourself Activities Ideas Guide is designed to provide you with creative ideas for corporate events, business parties, employee recreation, team building events, networking activities and creative ways to reward employees during special holidays all year long.

For professional development and implementation of a customized program to meet your group's specific needs please give us a call at 407-654-7447.

Do-It-Yourself Activities Ideas Guide

January - International Creativity Month

1. Put up a Creativity Suggestion Box in your business. On a regular basis, post a new problem, or a question you want creative ideas for. Award a prize to the employee(s) that come up with the most unique and useful ideas.

January – Martin Luther King Jr. Birth Anniversary

1. Martin Luther King Jr. is best remembered for his “I have a dream” speech. Ask employees to share their dreams with you in an I Have A Dream Contest. The employee records his or her dream on a card. All cards are entered into a prize drawing. One is chosen at random and the lucky employee wins his or her dream. You may want to set out criteria, such as price limits, for this contest.
2. Martin Luther King Jr. motivated a nation to take action. Therefore, it’s fitting on this day to ask employees to vote for the employee that motivates them the most. Count the votes and make this employee King For The Day, showering him or her with perks and prizes.

January – Sundance Film Festival

1. Have employees create their own film for a “<Your Business Name> Film Festival. Form teams of eight participants. Provide teams with a video camera. Ask teams to create a 2-minute video that depicts a work-related theme. To “nudge” team’s creativity, consider providing each team with a different set of themed costumes and props including pirate, western, superhero, etc. Have a professional edit the videos and compile them into one master tape. Show the videos at an awards ceremony. Roll out a red carpet for employees to walk down. Hire screaming fans to take pictures of them and ask for their autographs, as they walk down the red carpet. Show the videos. Then, hand out awards in different categories, such as Best Film, Best Actress, Best Actor, etc. to the participants on each winning team.

January – Better Business Communication Day

1. The best way to insure that employees, or departments, communicate better with one another is to have them experience what the other employees, or departments, experience. So, host a Job Swap Day. Allow different people from different departments to swap places with one another. This is an eye-opener that can show people how best to work with one another in the future.

January – US National Snow Sculpting Competition

1. Host a snow-sculpting team-building contest for your employees. Award prizes to the sculptures that best depict a work-related theme.



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January – Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day

1. Conduct a series of team-building bubble wrap games. Form teams of 8 participants. Play games such as:

Bubble Wrap Stomp

Give each team a roll of bubble wrap. On “go,” teams unwrap the bubble wrap and start to burst the bubbles. You can set criteria for this game, such as teams may only use their hands to burst the bubbles. Or, you can say “anything goes!” Call “time.” Have a panel of judges determine which team popped the most bubbles on their bubble wrap.

Bubble Wrap Wrap

Give each team a roll of bubble wrap. Have each team select one person to be wrapped and rolled. Warn teams not to wrap this person’s face with the bubble wrap. On “go,” teams wrap the bubble wrap around this person. Once the entire roll is wrapped around this person, the team rolls this person from the start line to the finish line. Award points based on who completed this task in the least amount of time.

Bubble Rap Drop

Hand each team a roll of bubble wrap, scotch tape and an egg. Give them two minutes to create a protective shell for their egg with the bubble wrap. After two minutes, take teams to the top of your building and have them drop the eggs. If you do not have access to the roof of your building, lay out a landing zone and have each team throw their egg into it from the same distance. The team(s) whose egg does not break is awarded points.

February – American Heart Month

1. Conduct free blood pressure checks for your employees. Alternatively, charge employees a dollar for the blood pressure check. In addition to the blood pressure check, give them a heart-shaped slip of paper to be entered into a prize drawing for a free heart rate monitor. Donate all money to the American Heart Association.
2. Give employees paper hearts. Every time somebody does something nice for them, ask them to put the do-gooder’s name on the heart along with what they did. Donate money to the American Heart Association for each good act that was recorded in the month of February. Or, give a prize to the employee who had their name mentioned on the most hearts.

February – The Grammy Awards

1. Organize a Karaoke Grammy Awards team-building competition. Place employees on different teams and allow them to choose a song to perform. The only trick is, they can’t perform the traditional words to their chosen song. Instead, they must rewrite the words to reflect a company theme. Give employees approximately one hour to write and practice their song. You can also give teams a themed set of costumes. Or, give teams a little more time and get them to create their own costumes out of a variety of materials such as fabric, sequins, hats, wigs, etc. When teams’ preparation time is up, have them take to the stage one at a time to perform their song. Give awards out to teams afterwards in categories such as “Best Hip Hop Moves,” “Best Songwriters” and “Best Vocal Group.”



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February – Valentine's Day

1. Send a Valentine's Day card to all of your employees to tell them how much you love and appreciate them. Include a coupon in the card for a token of your appreciation such as a free coffee at a local café, free chocolate at a candy store, etc.
2. Fill a heart-shaped box with candy message hearts. Invite employees to help themselves. Ask them to show you the heart they chose. If they chose the candy message heart that has the secret phrase of the day written on it, they win a small prize.

February – NBA All-Star Weekend

1. Write up a small profile about each of your employees, highlighting what makes them one of your All-Stars. Place the profile and a picture of each employee up on an All-Star display board. Ask customers to vote for their favorite All-Star on your team on basketball-shaped ballots. If you live in a town where there's an NBA team, award free tickets to the employee who gets the most votes. Or, enter each employee's name in a prize drawing for the tickets each time they receive a vote from a customer.
2. In honor of NBA All-Star Weekend invite all of your employees to wear their favorite NBA T-shirt to your establishment. Put all of the names of the NBA teams in a bowl. Throughout the day, draw a team out of the bowl. Give a small prize to everyone who is wearing the drawn team's jersey. Or, invite everyone who is wearing that team's jersey to compete in an NBA-themed game to win a better prize. Games you could play include:
 - Set up a basketball hoop and have participants take turns sinking baskets. The person who makes the most shots, wins.
 - Play H-O-R-S-E.
 - See who can balance a basketball on their head for the longest amount of time.
 - The person who throws a basket from the furthest point, wins.
 - Who can dribble the ball with their non-dominant hand for the longest, wins.



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February – Mardi Gras

1. Pancakes are the traditional meal served on Mardi Gras. So, host a pancake luncheon where employees can make their own crepes and stuff them with a variety of fillings.
2. Hire a marching band to parade through your office today. Have those marching in the parade throw beads to employees as they pass by. After the parade, have the employees check a Mardi Gras Board to see what, if anything, they won. Prizes are based on the color of the beads they caught. For instance, blue beads may be good for a free cup of coffee at a local café, while pink beads may be good for a T-shirt with the company's logo. If it is not possible to have a parade disturb your workplace, simply have employees draw out a string of beads as they enter work.
3. For a great Mardi Gras team-building event, place employees on teams and have each team build a Mardi Gras parade float. Give each team a wagon, or rolling platform, to use as the base of the parade float. Then, have each team visit a supply depot to choose the items they want to use to make their parade float. Items in the supply depot could include cardboard, poster board, tissue paper, ribbons, colored paper plates, foil, colored saran wrap, markers, tape, etc. When teams have completed their parade floats, have teams parade them around your office, or community. Award prizes for the best floats.

March – National Nutrition Month

1. Encourage your employees to take better care of themselves by getting them to eat right. Hire a nutritionist to come in and conduct free nutrition classes and / or analyses of your employees' diets. Notify your employees of these classes and analyses via a sticker on an apple that you give each employee as they enter work.
2. Conduct a healthy eating challenge in your office. Reward the employee who loses the most weight as a result of this healthy eating with a new wardrobe. Alternatively, reward the department that loses the most combined weight with a prize.

March – Monopoly Invented: Anniversary – March 7th

1. Give every employee a piece of legal paper designed to look like a Monopoly board. Print a different "to do" on each card. Employees choose which "to do" they want to complete and it is marked off on their board. For instance, under Boardwalk, it may say that employees have to take a walk over to a different department to learn about what that department does. Give everyone who completes the board a prize, or enter them into a prize drawing.
2. Give each of your employees a Monopoly card. Throughout the day, roll the dice to progress a playing piece around an on-display Monopoly board. You can tie the roll of the dice into what your company does – for instance, if you were a store, you could roll the dice each time a purchase is made. Or, roll the dice every hour. Wherever a person's property is landed on, have them come forward to collect Monopoly money. At the end of the day, the employees can use the Monopoly money to purchase prizes. These prizes can be company T-shirts, gifts you've purchased, or freebies your office has received that all employees want.



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March – St. Patrick's Day – March 17th

1. Give all of your employees a free lottery ticket, for their chance to win much more than just a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow!
2. Ask employees to choose a chocolate gold coin from a pot of gold coins on display. One of the gold coins has the company logo imprinted in the chocolate. All of the other gold coins contain non-logo imprinted chocolate. The employee who chooses this gold coin wins an actual gold coin.

March – Read Across America Day

Read Across America, which takes place on Dr. Seuss' birthday, is organized to motivate children to read. Here are some ways your employees can get involved:

1. Ask employees to donate new and used children's books and donate them to a local school or library. Alternatively, use the books to build up a children's reading library for employees. Allow employees to check these books out for their children. Award a prize to the department that brings in the most books.
2. Adjourn work early and invite all of your employees to get their children and bring them back for a Dr. Seuss party. Give everyone Cat In The Hat hats, serve a green eggs and ham snack and feature readings from Dr. Seuss' books.

March – International Scrapbooking Industry Day

1. Give everyone a scrapbook page imprinted with your company's logo, or put the page in a logo-imprinted frame. Have a professional photographer take pictures of your employees, either alone or with everyone in their department. Affix the photo to the scrapbook page and give it to the employee. Set up a corner of your business with decorative items employees can use to decorate their scrapbook page - items such as stamps, stickers, letters, etc. Allow employees to take their scrapbook page home as a memento of their workplace. Or, display the scrapbook pages in your business on a wall of fame. You could even turn this into a contest by having people vote for their favorite scrapbook page. The page that gets the most votes wins a prize.

April – National Networking Week

1. If you have a big company, it's just as important to get your employees to network internally as well as externally. Take a photograph of every member of your team and create a baseball card out of employees' pictures. Include important stats on the cards such as number of years they've been with your company, what department they are in, etc. Give each employee a stack of their own cards at the beginning of National Networking Week. Next, challenge employees to trade as many cards as possible with their colleagues. Employees can't just demand to get a card from another employee, they must engage in conversation first. At the end of National Networking Week, award a prize to the employee who has collected / traded the most cards.



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April – National Stress Awareness Day

1. Have a National Stress Awareness Day Fair for your employees. Invite local businesses to come in and man a table where they offer sample stress release treatments to your employees for free. Encourage these businesses to sell their services to your employees for a discounted rate in exchange for the exposure you are giving them. Types of services to target include aromatherapy, massage, acupuncture, yoga, health clubs, etc.
2. Get stress balls made up with your logo on them. Invite employees to choose one at random from a non-clear container. If an employee chooses one of the specially marked stress balls they win a free stress release treatment.

April – National Arbor Day

1. Invite each department to come out and plant a tree as a team-building exercise. This can either be on your property, or find an area in your community that needs to be beautified. Set up a plaque at the base of the tree with each department and / or employee's name on it.

April – Administrative Professionals Day

1. Organize an Administrative Professionals Day Team-building Contest. Assign Administrative Professionals as captains. They get to choose which employees are going to be on their team. Or, assign departmental teams. Teams compete in games to earn points. The team with the most points wins a prize for their Administrative Professional. Have games such as:
 - **Jumping Through Hoops** – Teams members take turns rolling a Hula-Hoop to a cone. Once there, they have to Hula-Hoop five times. Then, they have to run, football-drill style, through Hula-Hoops set out on the ground. The team that completes this relay in the quickest time wins.
 - **File Folder Fiasco** – Give each team a file cabinet and an inbox filled with file folders. On go, the first player runs to the inbox, picks up the top file folder then files it in the filing cabinet. Play continues until everyone on the team has filed a folder, or until all folders are filed. The team that completes this relay in the quickest time wins (take seconds off for each folder that is filed incorrectly).
 - **Telephone** – Teams listen to an array of different voices over a speakerphone. The voices can belong to customers, other employees or famous people. The team that identifies the most voices correctly wins.
 - **Team Cheer** – Teams must write and perform a cheer that sings the praises of the team's Administrative Professional. A panel of judges scores the team cheers. The team that gets the most points wins.



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April – Take Our Sons & Daughters to Work Day

1. Ideas to entertain and educate your employees' kids at work include:
 - **Job Title Dictionary** – Write down job titles on a board. Write the real description on a slip of paper. Ask the kids to write down what they think the job description is based on the job title. Drop off all of the descriptions in a hat. Choose one description out at a time, give it a number, then read it out loud. Give kids a piece of paper and a marker. They write down the number of the description that they think is correct. After all of the descriptions have been read out loud, reveal the correct job description. Kids get points for choosing the correct job description and also for getting kids to vote for their version of what the job description is. Give a small prize to the kid that gets the most points.
 - **Tour** – Tour the kids around the office, but instead of a dry, boring tour, turn it into a guessing game. Have each department come up with a hint as to what it is each department does. Before describing what that department actually does, have kids guess what it is from the hint. For instance, the sales department could be photocopying money (because it's their job to make money). Or, they could greet the kids as if they were at an auction (because it's their job to sell). Award points to the kids for each correct guess.
 - **Parent Report Cards** - Give the kids "Parent Report Cards" to sign before they go home. The report cards grade parents' performances and list praise for their parents' efforts so the kids will feel pride.

May – National Nightshift Workers Day

1. Invite all of your nightshift employees to a catered breakfast buffet, either before or after their shift on this day.
2. Give all of your nightshift employees a nightlight imprinted with your company logo. Tell them the nightlight is to thank them for brightening up your company's nights. Also, invite them to plug in the nightlight. If the light glowing in the bulb is colored, not natural, they win a prize.

May – Mother's Day

1. Ask all of your employees who are moms to select a free flower from a non-clear vase as they enter your office. All of the flowers, but one which has a long stem, have average-sized stems. The mom that picks the flower with the long stem wins a prize. Allow moms to also keep their flower.

May – National Meeting Planner's Appreciation Day

1. Although this day was created to honor you, if you are a meeting planner, use today to send a token of appreciation to all of your customers. It will stand out much more in your customers' minds than another Christmas card would. And, after all, you wouldn't be a meeting planner without your customers!
2. To honor all of the employees in your company who organize meetings and events, give each of them two event tickets to an event of their choosing. That way, they can enjoy an event they did not have to organize!



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May – New York Stock Exchange Established: Anniversary – May 17th

1. Tell your employees it's time to invest in themselves. Give each of them a made up stock certificate each time they reach an agreed upon goal, help a colleague, take a seminar, etc. The employee with the most stock certificates at the end of the campaign, which starts or ends on May 17th, wins a prize.

May – National Bike to Work Day

1. To keep your employees fit, consider offering employees complimentary bike rentals to use during their lunch hour.
2. Build A Bike Team-building Activity – Place 6-8 employees on a team. Give each team an unassembled bike to put together. Be sure to hire a bike mechanic to be at your event to insure the bikes are put together properly. Set up a supply depot with materials such as masking tape, crepe paper streamers, construction paper, etc. that teams can use to decorate their bikes. Have the teams navigate a bike obstacle course in a stopwatch-timed race. The team that clocks the best time wins the team-building activity. At the end of the team-building event, clean off all the bikes and donate them to needy kids. If you are not sure whom to give the bikes to, give them to a foster home or sheriff's department to hand out to needy kids.
3. Amazing Bike Race Team-building Activity – Place 6-8 employees on a team. Ask people to bring their own bikes in for the event and / or rent bikes. Send teams off to different areas around town to solve clues / compete in challenges. Teams earn points at each station and / or for how long it takes them to complete the race. The team that has the most points, or that finishes the race first, wins.

May – Preakness Stakes

1. Invite employees to wear a hat (a tradition for those who go to horse races). Have a Hat Contest, awarding prizes for the prettiest, most outrageous, largest, etc. hats.

May – Memorial Day

1. Post goals for each employee and / or department. Give employees from Memorial Day until Labor Day, the unofficial start and end of summer, to reach these goals. Everyone who reaches these goals gets an extra day off for their summer vacation.
2. Have a Memorial Day Party featuring:
 - **Beach Blanket Bingo** – Give every employee a beach ball with a Bingo number written on it. Draw numbers from a Bingo hopper throughout the day. Award a prize to the employees holding these numbers. Or, write out a giant Bingo board on a beach towel. When Bingo is achieved, give a prize to every employee holding the numbers that made Bingo.
 - **Summer Picnic-fare Buffet** – Serve the food on Frisbees, imprinted with the company logo. Allow employees to keep the Frisbees.
 - **Beach Ball Drop** - Suspend beach balls in nets from your ceiling. At the end of the party, drop the beach balls. Have every employee pick up only one ball. Award a prize to the employees who picked up a certain color beach ball.



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June – Effective Communications Month

1. Have a Non-Verbal Team-building Event. Place eight or more employees on a team. Have the entire team complete a task, such as building a contraption that transports a ball from one end to the other in a series of eight steps, without talking to one another. To make it more interesting give each person on the team a specific thing they must make the contraption do. They have to communicate this non-verbally to the rest of their teammates. For instance, one person may be told that the ball has to roll downhill at one point. Another person may be told to make the ball go through a tunnel, etc. The team that makes the ball travel the fastest through the eight steps wins.

June – National Iced Tea Month

1. Give each employee an insulated iced tea mug with his or her name on it. Set up an iced tea station in your break room complete with fixings such as lemon, mint and flavored / colored sugars to rim their mugs.
2. Send a tea bag to each of your employees. Attach a message to the tea bag that reads, “__eamwork. Is your Team missing something? We want to help! Write a suggestion on the reverse of this message and drop it in the teapot outside Human Resources to let us know what we can do to help.”

June – National Candy Month

1. Have a different Candy Contest each week and award a prize to the winner:
 - **Licorice chomp** – Employees line up shoulder-to-shoulder facing the judge. Each is given a licorice whip and asked to place the end of it into their mouth. On “go” players must slurp it up into their mouths, without using their hands, and eat it. When they are done eating it, they should raise their hand and open their mouth. The person who eats their licorice whip the fastest wins.
 - **Jelly Belly Taste Test** – Give each employee the same 15 different flavors of Jelly Belly candies in a bag to taste. Employees register their guess next to a picture of each Jelly Belly on an answer sheet. The person who gets the most correct wins. Or, place all of the employees who get them all right into a prize drawing.
 - **Bubble Gum Blowing** – Employees line up shoulder-to-shoulder facing the judge. Each is given a piece of wrapped bubble gum. On “go” players must unwrap the bubble gum and blow a bubble. The person who blows a bubble first wins a prize. Also award prizes to the person who blows the biggest bubble, holds the bubble without it popping the longest, etc.

June – Ballpoint Pen Patented: Anniversary – June 10th

1. Have a team-building event. Give each team a certain amount of money and one hour to come up with a plan to use the money to collect school supplies for a local charity, such as A Gift For Teaching. Later, give them 3 hours to put their plan in place. The team that collects the most school supplies wins a prize. And, the charity wins regardless!



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June – National Flag Day – June 14th

1. Have a Flag Design team-building event. Place six employees on a team. Just as Betsy Ross designed a flag that symbolized what our country stood for, challenge each team to design a flag that symbolizes what your company stands for. Give each team a plain white fabric flag and decorating supplies such as patterned fabrics, fabric markers, needles, colored thread, scissors, etc. Have each team create a presentation on what their flag represents and why it should be chosen as the winner. Have a panel of judges choose their favorite flag. After the event, fly the flags on flagpoles outside of your building.
2. Deliver a red, white and blue treat to everyone in your office today, such as a decorated cupcake, or a layered Jell-o cup.

June – Father's Day

1. Have an Ugly Tie Contest. Ask fathers to wear their ugliest tie. Give each employee one voting slip to vote for the names of the three men they think are wearing the ugliest ties. Award a gift certificate to a men's clothing store to the winner so they can buy new ties!
2. Host a Father's Day Chair-ity Team-building Event. Place eight employees on a team. Try to put at least one father on each team. Give each team an old recliner to decorate with a Father's Day theme. For instance, someone may call their entry "The Handyman" and replace the handle with a tool, place a handyman's apron on the side of each arm, etc. After introducing the event, send each team to a department store with a set amount of money to purchase materials to decorate their chair. Set a time limit to complete the project. When time is up, have each team do a presentation for their chair. Have a panel of judges vote for their favorite chair and donate money to a charity of the winning team's choice.

June – Take Your Dog to Work Day

1. Have a Dog & Owner Look Alike Contest. If your company will not allow employees to bring their dogs to work, ask them to bring in a photo of themselves and their dog to hang side by side on a display board. Ask employees to vote for the dog and owner that look the most alike and award a basket of pet treats to the winner.
2. Have an early morning, or after work walk / run for your employees to take with their dogs. Give everyone who takes part a Take Your Dog To Work Day imprinted T-shirt for themselves and an imprinted bandanna for their dog.



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July – National Grilling Month

1. Ask employees to submit their favorite grilling recipes for publication in an employee recipe book. Print a voting coupon on the back page of the recipe book and encourage employees to vote for their favorite recipe at the end of the month. The employee whose recipe receives the most votes wins a free grill.
2. Have a Grill-Off Competition. Put employees on teams of 6 people. Give each team a grill. If using a charcoal grill isn't possible, use electric grills. Give all teams the same ingredients to prepare a grilled entrée. But, allow teams to visit a "Side Bar" stocked with different spices, seasonings and condiments. Give teams a set amount of time to prepare a grilled entree. Then, place their recipe on a table with a tent card advertising what it is. Allow everyone to eat what was prepared and ask everyone to vote for his or her favorite dish. Or, allow a panel of judges to determine their favorite. Award a barbecue set, or the electric grills, to each participant on the winning team.

July – Independence Day – July 4th

Have a Fourth of July Party. During the party:

1. Give everyone:
 - A fire "cracker" to pull. "Crackers" are traditionally handed out at Christmas in England, but you can purchase them online year round. Crackers are made out of cardboard and they pop when pulled apart. Prizes are hidden inside, but you can slit the cardboard open and slide prize slips inside some of the crackers that can be redeemed for giveaway items.
 - A sparkler. At a set time, ask everyone to light his or her sparkler. All of the sparklers, but one or two, glow the same color. The employee(s) with the different colored sparkler wins a prize.
 - A scratch off card. Guests are only allowed to scratch off one star on the scratch off card. If they scratch the right one, they could win a million dollars. Enter the search term "scratch off promotion" in a search engine for a number of companies that offer custom scratch off promotions.
 - A red, white or blue gem. As guests enter the party they choose one gem from either the tray of red gems (for the chance to win a ruby or garnet), white gems (for the chance to win a diamond) or blue gems (for the chance to win a sapphire). Have several real gems in each tray. The rest are fakes. Have guests bring their chosen gem to a jeweler, set up at your party, to determine if their gem is real or not. All fake gems are given back. But, the lucky guests who chose the real gems get to keep them.
2. Serve a picnic buffet complete with hotdogs, hamburgers, salads, watermelon, etc.
3. Feature Watermelon Contests – Individuals or teams of contestants compete to hold a greased watermelon the longest, eat a watermelon the fastest, spit watermelon seeds the furthest, etc.
4. Award prizes to the "patriots" and "founding fathers" in your company – red, white and true-blue trophies, pins or award medals for those who have been with the company for "x" number of years or more.



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July – Tour de France

1. Run a Tour de France Race Competition. Give individuals a bike route map. For every goal they meet, mark off a leg of the race on their bike route map. At the end of each week award a yellow T-shirt jersey, with your company's name on it, to the individual who has progressed the furthest. Award a prize to the individual that finishes the race first. Or, at the end of the promotion, enter everyone who passed the finish line on the bike route map into a prize drawing for a new bike.
2. Many people do not realize that the Tour De France is a team effort. Give each department different team jerseys to show their devotion to moving forward as a winning team, rather than as individuals looking out for Number One.

July – “The Newlywed Game” TV Premier: Anniversary – July 11th

1. Have a “Newly-worked Game” team-building event. Form pairs made up of two people from two different departments. Just as in the TV show “The Newlywed Game,” separate the participants and ask them how they think their “partner” will answer work-related questions. The other “partner” writes their answers to these questions down behind the scenes. Bring the pairs back together to reveal how many of their answers matched. This is not only humorous; it also shows how well different departments communicate with one another! Award a prize to the pair that gets the most answers correct.

July – National Ice Cream Day

1. Have an Ice Cream Making team-building event. Place 6 participants on a team. Allow each team to visit a sundae bar for the ice cream flavors and ingredients they want to add into it to create the ultimate ice cream flavor. At a set time, conduct an ice cream tasting. Have a panel of judges determine the best tasting ice cream. And, let each team taste other team's creations.

July – The British Open

1. Knowing how to play golf is a worthwhile business skill. Consider paying for golf lessons for those employees who express an interest in learning how to play. Announce sign-up for the lessons during The British Open.

July – US Patent Office Opens – July 31st

1. Have an Invention Team-Building Event today. Place 6-8 participants on a team. Provide each team with the same materials – building blocks, construction paper, pipe cleaners, markers, etc. and challenge them to use them to build a prototype for a new invention that will revolutionize your industry. The goal is to challenge team's creativity, not necessarily build something realistic. Each team must name their product and create a pitch for the new invention. A panel of judges determines the winning team.



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August – Don't Wait – Celebrate! Week

1. Don't Wait – Celebrate! Week is all about celebrating the little moments in life. Ask employees to submit an idea for why your company should have a celebration. Have a panel of judges choose their favorite, then host the celebration.
2. Have a Don't Wait – Celebrate! Week Luncheon for your employees and / or customers. Wrap the silverware for the party inside a party horn. Write "Celebrate" on some. On others, write "Prize Winner." Have those that won a prize pick up a wrapped mystery gift.

August – National Garage Sale Day

1. Clutter piles up in work spaces, so make National Garage Sale the day you have everyone clean out their area every year. In addition to getting rid of old files, have them get rid of anything unwanted that has piled up in their office. Have them place unwanted items on tables in the break room for a makeshift Garage Sale. Only, instead of selling the items, have them trade, or just give these items away. Haul everything that is leftover at the end of the day to the dumpster or donate to those in need.

August – Weird Contest Week

1. Highlight a different weird team-building contest every day this week. Ask employees to suggest their ideas for weird contests. Or, consider the following ideas for weird contests:
 - Have your team work together to try and break a Guinness Book of World Records record. Inform the press so they can cover the attempt!
 - Teams may have to compete in a charity-based contest. For instance, the team that plants the most flowers for a park in a certain amount of time wins golden garden shears.

August – National Relaxation Day

1. Set up a relaxation room for your employees, complete with couches, comfy chairs, soothing music, fountains, etc. Designate this a no talking, cell phone-free zone so employees can go there to recharge their batteries throughout the day.

August – Be an Angel Day

1. Give each of your employees a small amount of money today and ask them to spend it with the caveat that it cannot be on themselves. Instead, encourage them to spend it today doing something nice for a stranger. For instance, they could donate it; buy a small toy for a kid that is crying in a store, etc.



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August – Hawaii Admission Day Anniversary – August 21st

Send all employees to Hawaii for the day:

- Ask employees to come dressed in a Hawaiian shirt. Give out prizes for the loudest shirt, most unique shirt, etc.
- Give employees a lei as they come into work. Attach a raffle ticket to each lei. Do a drawing for Hawaiian themed prizes.
- Have a Luau buffet, complete with pulled pork, coconut shrimp, pineapple chunks, etc.
- Give everyone a tropical drink glass with his or her name on it.
- Have a tropical drink-making team-building event. Set each team up at a station stocked with a blender and an assortment of juices, syrups and fruit. Teams create a non-alcoholic drink, pouring a sample for everyone to try. Participants vote for their favorite – they cannot vote for their own team's creation. Award a prize to the team that got the most votes.

August – Radio Commercials Anniversary – August 28th

1. Have a Make a Radio Commercial team-building event. If you want a short event, simply give teams a microphone and recorder and ask them to tape a 60-second spot promoting your company. If you want a longer event, ask each team to create a radio show - reminiscent of those that were big before television, or a talk radio style show. Throughout the show, they must include radio commercial breaks that extol the virtues of your company. Award a prize for the most entertaining tape, best use of theme, the funniest show etc. Alternatively, have teams record commercials about what it is that makes your customers great. Send copies of the recordings to all of your customers and thank them for their business.

August – Happiness Happens Day

1. Today, give employees a form to fill out about the things that make them happy. For instance, what is their favorite flower, cartoon character, ice cream flavor, etc? Throughout the year, surprise them with their favorite things on special days, rather than giving everyone the same thing.
2. Have a speaker in to talk about how to keep a positive outlook and stay happy.
3. Send smiley face buttons to all of your customers today. Tell them that in your company the thing that makes you happiest on Happiness Happens Day is their business!



Do-It-Yourself Activities Ideas Guide

September – Self Improvement Month

1. Have each department challenge their employees to a Self-Improvement Contest. Consult with each department before launching the contest on what criteria to track and how the contest will be measured. For instance, the winner may be the person who had the most sales that month, or the person who read the most work-related books. At the end of the month, award a prize to the most improved person in each department.

September – Do It! Day

1. Ask employees what it is they wish they could do at work that would be mutually beneficial to them and to your company. For instance, you may be surprised to learn that your accountant is a budding artist who would love to help with your next graphic design project. Or, there may be several parents in the office that would like to work out a flextime schedule with one another, rather than work full-time.

September – National Grandparents' Day

1. Negotiate with a photographer to set up a portrait studio in your office. Arrange for employees with grandchildren to get a complimentary portrait with their grandchild. If their grandchildren live out of town, invite the grandparent to have their portrait taken (with their significant other if they wish). They can then send the portrait to their grandchildren.
2. If you do not wish to have a professional photographer take pictures, consider inviting grandparents to bring in photographs of themselves and their grandchildren. Post these photographs on a Grandparents' Bragging Board in your office.

September – Patriot Day – September 11th

1. Pass out American flag pins to all employees today.
2. Purchase a large poster-sized picture of the American flag. On the back of the picture, lightly mark one of the stars with an X. Hang the picture. On the front of the picture, have each employee write their name in on one of the stars. Once everyone has written his or her name on a star, turn the picture over. The employee who signed the secretly marked star wins a prize. If the secretly marked star is not signed, have the person who signed the closest star to the right of the secretly marked star win. Leave the picture hanging in the office, highlighting your belief that each employee is a star in your eyes.



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September – National Good Neighbor Day

1. Neighborhoods host block parties so that everyone on the block can get to know one another better. Why not have a Block Party so that everyone in the company can get to know one another better? Ask employees to sign up to bring a certain dish to share with everyone else on their “block” (department or floor). Host a get-to-know-you activity during the Block Party, such as Human Bingo:
 - To play Human Bingo, replace the numbers in the squares on a bingo board with characteristics. For instance, “can sing their college fight song” could be in one square and “has a pet that does not have fur” could be in another. Pass out a Human Bingo sheet to each person at the Block Party. The object is for employees to find someone to place their name in a relevant square. For instance, if someone owned a snake, they could put their name in the “has a pet that does not have fur” square. Have employees gather a different name in each square on the Human Bingo sheet. Once they have a signature in each square, they can enter their name in a grand prize drawing. Before awarding the prize, “verify” the Human Bingo sheet. Call out the names of some of the people who signed the squares on the winner’s sheet. Have them “prove” they are relevant. For instance, the person who signed, “can sing their college fight song” has to get up and sing it!

October – National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

1. Hold breast cancer awareness classes for your employees. Give pink ribbons to everyone who participates in the classes. You may also want to consider giving eligible employees (eligibility determined by what your insurance coverage specifies) time off this week to get a mammography.
2. Encourage employees to sign up a team for a local American Cancer Society Relay for Life event, or a breast cancer walk.

October – National Chili Month

1. Have a Chili Cook-Off Competition. If you have kitchen facilities, consider putting people on teams and having each team prepare a pot of chili with the ingredients supplied. If you do not have kitchen facilities, ask employees to bring in a pot of their homemade chili to share. After employees have tasted everyone’s chili, set a bowl out in front of each pot. Give each employee two uncooked chili beans. Ask them to drop one bean into two different bowls, to signify which two chili recipes they liked best. The bowl with the most beans in it determines the winner. Award a red-hot prize to the winner(s).
2. Feature a Chili Beans Mixer at the Chili Cook-Off Competition, or as a stand-alone event. Give every employee a small bag with 10 uncooked chili beans in it. Every time they can get another employee to answer “yes” or “no” to one of their questions, they collect a chili bean from that employee. At the end of the mixer event, the person with the most chili beans wins a prize.



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October – Build Your Business with Business Cards Week

1. Fill orders for new business cards today. Insure that everyone in the company has business cards, even the interns! When people feel that you care enough about them to give them business cards – no matter what their job title – they feel ownership and take pride in the company.
2. The next time your business organizes a networking function, conduct a business card mixer with the guests. Make a list of categories of business cards that people need to collect. Categories on the list could include finding a business card from someone who has:
 - The same logo color on their card as yours.
 - The same first and last initials as you.
 - A picture of themselves on their business card.

Once someone has collected all of the categories on the list, enter their name in a grand prize drawing. This is a nice way for people to meet and get business cards from one another without having them feel awkward doing so!

October – National Boss Day

1. Take pictures of each employee. Place each picture on its own page in a scrapbook. Have each employee write their favorite memory of their boss, what they like best about their boss, etc., on the page next to their picture. Or, prepare a sheet with categories for each employee to fill in. Categories could include: what they think the boss' greatest strength is; the one word they would use to describe the boss; a color that describes the boss and why, etc. Place the completed sheet in the scrapbook next to each employee's photo in the scrapbook. Present the scrapbook to the boss to make them feel truly appreciated.

October – Halloween – October 31st

1. Have employees reach into a bag of trick or treat candy as they arrive to work. Do not allow them to see inside the bag. If they choose a Payday bar, give them a small treat. Mark the Payday bars with your logo in some way so people do not catch on and bring in their own Payday bars!
2. Supply a miniature pumpkin to every employee. Set up a station at work with pumpkin carving and decorating materials. On Halloween, have everyone place their pumpkin on their desk. Have judges walk around to vote for the funniest, scariest, best, etc. Award ribbons and a bag of trick-or-treat candy to the best.



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November – National Inspirational Role Models Month

1. Ask employees to vote for the fellow employee that they think is an inspirational role model and why. Spotlight the employee(s) who get the most votes. You could spotlight just one, or feature a different employee every week. Get an Inspirational Role Model plaque done up with the employee's name and picture on it to hang in the office. Also, place anonymous comments about why people voted for these employees on the plaque.

November – Cliché Day

1. Treat employees to a number of rewards today, all of which center around clichés. Then, play “spot the cliché” with your employees. At the end of the day, have everyone email what clichés they were rewarded with throughout the day. Award a prize to the person who identifies the most clichés correctly. Or, if more than one person identifies all of them, put all of those employees in a drawing for the prize. Examples of cliché-based rewards you could feature include:
 - “An apple a day keeps the doctor away” – Place an apple on everyone's desk.
 - “You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink” – Give everyone a bottle of water, or place personalized water glasses by the water cooler for all employees.
 - “The proof of the pudding is in the eating” – Treat everyone to a Jell-o pudding cup as a mid-afternoon snack.
 - “You can't teach an old dog new tricks” – Give everyone a puzzle to solve, such as those you find on the tables at Cracker Barrel.
 - “Better late than never” – Provide everyone with a card that can be redeemed for being a half-hour late to work one morning without getting in trouble.
 - “A penny saved is a penny earned” – Place a jar of pennies in the break room. Ask employees to register a guess as to how many pennies are in the jar. Award a prize to the employee who comes closest to the actual number without going over.

November – Veterans Day

1. Conduct a Boot Camp-themed team building exercise. Place employees on a team and give each team different colored dog tags for team identification. Have teams rotate through a variety of challenges to earn points for their team. Challenges could include:
 - **Potato Peeling Relay** – Teammates race to peel a bucket of potatoes. The team that peels the most in the allotted amount of time wins.
 - **Obstacle Course** – Teammates take turns running through tires, crawling through a barrel and vaulting over playground shapes. The best stopwatch time wins.
 - **Mess Hall Relay** – Teammates take turns running around obstacles while balancing a tray of food and water. The best stopwatch time wins.



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- **Quick Change Relay** – Teammates take turns putting on a helmet, backpack and army boots; racing to the other side; changing out of these items; and giving them to the next teammate waiting in line. The best stopwatch time wins.
2. Allow employees who chip in a \$5 or more cash donation to wear casual-dress camouflage to work today. Send all of the proceeds to the military charity of your choice.

November – National Family Week

1. Invite employees to bring photographs of their family (spouse and kids or parents) into work. Give each photograph a number and post them up on a display board. On a sheet of paper list your employees' names down one side and the numbers of the photographs down the other. Have each employee try to match the employee name to the correct photograph (have them draw an arrow from the employees' names to the numbers on the sheet). Gather everyone around the display board at the end of the week to reveal which is their families' photograph. The employee who matched the most correctly wins a prize. If there is a tie, place all of the winners in a random prize drawing.

November – Thanksgiving

1. Give every employee a wishbone with a number attached to it. Draw numbers at random and invite the employees who hold these numbers to come up and pull their wishbone with the boss. If the employee wins the pull, they get their wish granted by the boss. Allow employees to choose from a select list of wishes, such as a) an extra day off with pay; b) get to come in one hour late, or leave one hour early every day for a week; or c) get to wear casual dress to the office for two weeks.
2. This Thanksgiving take some time out to write a thank you letter to each of your employees telling them why you are thankful that they work for you.

November – Bruce Lee's Birth Anniversary

1. Hire a martial arts expert to come in and teach a self-defense class to your employees. You could make this a one-night, one-time only class. Or, hold a more in-depth class that kicks off today, but that happens one night of the week for several weeks.

November – Rockefeller Center's Christmas Tree Lighting

1. Send employees an ornament with their name on it. Invite employees to hang their ornament on the company tree at a tree-lighting ceremony, taking place later that day. Ask employees to hang their ornament anywhere on the tree that they wish. At a set time, turn on the lights on the tree. The employee, whose ornament is hanging closest to the blinking light on the tree - all other lights do not blink - wins the present underneath the tree.



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December –Cookie Cutter Week

1. Invite employees to take a break and get to know one another at a Cookies & Milk Mixer. Serve cookies and milk. As employees enter, hand them a cookie cutter and a Cookies & Milk Mixer Card. Their goal is to meet “x” number of their colleagues (you can determine the number) that have the same cookie cutter as theirs. When they find someone who has the same type of cookie cutter, they ask them a question on the Cookies & Milk Mixer Card (see sample below). After listening to the answer, they ask that colleague to sign their name on the card by the question asked. Once an employee has found “x” number of employees and had them sign their card, they enter the card into a prize drawing.

Cookies & Milk Mixer Card	
Find 5 employees who have the same kind of cookie cutter as yours.	
Ask your cookie cutter colleague one of the questions on this card. Use each question only once. Ask each colleague a different question.	
After a colleague answers your question have them sign your card next to the question you asked them.	
When your card is full enter it in the grand prize drawing.	
Your name: _____	
Question	Signature
When did you start working for the company and where did you work before?	
What do you like most about working here?	
What is your biggest challenge and how can I, or my department, help you overcome it?	
Name a talent you possess that the company may not know about and that you would like to use more at work.	
What is the best success secret you ever heard?	

2. Give each employee a unique cookie cutter. Choose the cookie cutter based on that employee’s strengths and traits. For instance, an employee that really cares about others could get a heart-shaped cookie cutter. An employee who is personable could get a gingerbread man cookie cutter. Attach a note to each cookie cutter that explains why you chose that cookie cutter for that employee. This is an excellent way to show appreciation for your employees as individuals, rather than as a group.



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December – Nobel Prize Award Ceremonies

1. Host an Employee Nobel Prize Award Ceremony. Ask employees, or a panel of judges, to vote for the employee who deserves the Nobel Prize for:
 - **Physics** – Awarded to the best mover and shaker in the company.
 - **Chemistry** – Awarded to the employee customers and / or employees love the most.
 - **Medicine** – Awarded to the best in operations.
 - **Literature** – Awarded to the employee that writes the best emails, reports, proposals, or grants.
 - **Economics** – Awarded to the employee who came up with the best money-saving idea.
 - **Peace** – Awarded to the employee who excels at making peace when customers and / or employees are riled.

At the real Nobel Prize Awards Ceremonies, presentation speeches extol the Laureates. A banquet follows. So, be sure to present a short speech about each of your winners. Then, treat your employees to a buffet. The real ceremonies take place in Sweden and Norway. So, consider serving dishes such as Swedish meatballs and Norwegian salmon.

December – First Crossword Puzzle Anniversary – December 21st

1. Give all employees a crossword puzzle sheet as they arrive for work. Only include the crossword puzzle grid, not the numbered hints. Throughout the day, send out hints to employees over the intercom, or via email. After all of the hints have been provided, award a prize to the first employee that fills in the entire crossword puzzle correctly. Or, draw a winner from all completed, correct entries.

December – Christmas – December 25th

1. Have a Winter Wonderland Theme Party:
 - Ask everyone to dress in white, blue or silver.
 - Decorate the room with snowflakes, silver tinsel, snowball candles, dry ice, ice sculptures, etc.
 - Serve drinks in frosted glasses.



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- Conduct an “ice”breaker to kick off this party. Have each employee choose a jewel from an ice chest as they enter the party. Most of the jewels are cubic zirconium. However, a few are diamonds. Employees take their jewel to a jeweler located at the back of the room. The jeweler checks the jewel with a loupe to see if the employee has chosen a cubic zirconium or a diamond. If the employee chose a diamond, they keep it. Negotiate with a local jeweler to handle this icebreaker for you. Or, contact Wildly Different if you wish to have a company handle all of this for you.

December – Boxing Day – December 26th

1. Invite everyone to play a variation of Deal or No Deal. Wrap a variety of boxes - one box for every employee. Before wrapping the box, place a random number inside it. Also stuff envelopes with one number for every employee you have. For instance, if you have ten employees you would stuff ten envelopes, one with number 1, and another with number 2 and so on up to 10.

The object of the game is to be the employee with the box that has the highest number inside. The only trick is, employees don't know what the highest number is! At the start of the event, have each employee choose one wrapped box and an envelope. Ask employees to open their box, but not to reveal the number inside it. Ask employees to open their envelope. The employee holding number 1 from the envelope gets to choose whether they will keep their box, or exchange boxes with another employee. Employees who swap are allowed to look at the number inside their new box, but encourage them to keep their poker faces. Play continues until everyone has been given the opportunity to keep, or exchange, boxes. At the end, ask everyone to reveal the number inside their box. The employee holding the highest number wins a prize.



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