

Offbeat and On-Target

Look, No Ropes

Group team-building options get creative

Popular wisdom holds that we are living in the age of the niche. Appropriately enough, team-building companies are now offering some out-there activities that depart from tired-and-true trust falls, paintball games and ropes courses of years past.

One offbeat option is WhirlyBall, which combines lacrosse, hockey and basketball with bumper cars. The WhirlyBall (whirlyball.com)

company has three Illinois locations, where bumper car team members work together to score baskets using plastic scoops. Visit whirlyball.org to find other places where the sport is played and watch a game in action.

For those who don't enjoy getting knocked about, Canadian Outback Adventures (canadianoutback.com) organizes a barbecue challenge where teams battle, *Iron Chef*-style, with must-use ingredients in an outdoor cooking competition. After the judges choose the winning team, it's time to eat.

A do-good way to forge

bonds: The Helping Hands program from Odyssey Teams (odysseyteams.com) assists groups in building prosthetic hands that are donated to those in need. Since the program began in 2004, a total of 1,200 hands have been assembled, 750 of which have been distributed to amputees in foreign countries including Colombia, India, Jordan and Kenya. ■ HUNTER R. SLATON



Wild ride: WhirlyBall blends bumper cars and more.



On the spot

How has earning your CMP affected your career?

"While the CMP designation does not define me, it does define my profession. Four years ago, after I earned my CMP, I noticed that it received some attention in job notices and promotional pieces within the industry. My employer at the time rewarded my achievement with a more professional title. As I look to expand my career, I find that having my CMP enables me to enjoy a higher level of recognition."

Jane Matteson Mundell, CMP

**President
Wise Incentives
San Diego**

"Our association members are realtors, so they understand the importance of a designation. To them, the CMP demonstrates my commitment to my work, just as they are committed to their industry. Most importantly, the CMP has validated my confidence in my job and has provided a great network of other CMPs."

**Jodie Cady, CMP
Events Manager
Michigan Association of Realtors
Lansing, Mich.**

"I don't think I would have landed many of my Fortune 1000 clients without those three important letters after my name. You can bet I'll be shooting for the Certificate of Meeting Management [CMM] designation next."

**Pierre H. Charmasson
Director of Meetings and Events
Professional Event Solutions
San Diego**