



Green Teams Team building for a better environment

Excerpt from an article written by *Katie Morell for Meetings West, July, 2008*

Whether it's building a solar-powered vehicle or creating a model for an energy-efficient city, team-building activities are heading in an eco-conscious direction that reflects today's growing commitment to green meetings.

Activity Options

Access Destination Services, a full-service DMC based in Southern California, is also big on green and socially responsible team building, says Jennifer Miller, general manager.

"We've worked with a Head Start program and put together an environmentally friendly playground set for the children in the community," she says, adding that Head Start is an organization that offers before- and after-school child care for at-risk youth. "When we got there, there was the foundation for a playground set."

According to Miller, groups were broken up into teams and given different tasks. Each team had to solve a word challenge or answer trivia questions in order to get the tools to put together the pieces of the playground. The project proved to be incredibly rewarding for attendees.

"It was a very touching program," she says. "The attendees worked on the playground and at the end of it, the kids came out. There is nothing like seeing a 60-year-old man wiping tears behind his sunglasses."

Green Guidance

For planners who aren't sure where to start, [Alan] Ranzer [with Impact 4 Good] offers some advice.

"They [planners] need to look at their demographics and their goals," he says. "It is important to know your audience and the goals of your team-building activity. You have to match the activity to the people. It doesn't take much to give back to the environment; it is just how much you want to do."

Miller [with Access Destination Services] advises planners to get creative.

"Think outside the box," she says. "You can take something that has been done and put a green twist on it. Use materials in your team building that are environmentally friendly. Switch to environmentally friendly products. There is a lot of printed collateral that goes along with team building—use recycled paper for things like that." ■

Since 1970, **ACCESS Destination Services** has provided the highest caliber of full-service, professional destination management and event production services in the West, including the Anaheim/Orange County, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Palm Springs and San Diego areas.