



Fun and Games

at your Next Reunion

DESTINATION
Reunions

DestinationReunions.com

Introduction

Traditionally, reunion planning can be an immense, difficult, time-consuming process. Our mission is to help lessen the burden planners have felt throughout that process. As we're doubling down that purpose as we seek to help you through every aspect of planning your reunion through guides like this.

As a pioneer in the reunions industry, Destination Reunions is the go-to source for all aspects of your reunion planning. Playing games and attending activities are paramount to having fun and relaxing. Games and activities bring people together and are an excellent way to use downtime or can be used as a cornerstone to build the entire reunion around. It's central to the overall success and likely retention rate of any future reunions. We've prioritized the fundamentals of planning your games and activities in order for your reunion to be a hit!

This paper outlines Destination Reunions' approach to games and activities and their collective importance at your next reunion.



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Planning Games and Activities

For Your Reunion

Planning to incorporate games and activities into your reunion may seem like unnecessary extra work, but the return on investment that you'll receive from successfully planning these can be tremendous. It's important to always keep in mind that games and activities are meant to be fun, light ways to make sure the reunion is never stale.

Since all of the many parts associated with reunion planning and attending a reunion can often be stressful, playing games during periods of free time should break up the tension. Doing some basic research ahead of time into the likes and dislikes of your attendees will save you time when you're just looking to relax with a fun game or activity.

Finding the right time

Just like in business, knowing your audience is the key to successfully finding the right time to play games or do an activity during your reunion. Take stock of the relative age and physical fitness levels of your participants before choosing the time to play something. Some games will require higher energy levels than others and you'll want to make sure the game or activity is engaging enough where people aren't getting bored quickly.

Additionally, the length of your reunion is very important as well. Are you getting together for a few hours during one day at a large park? You might just need to play one sports-related game if that's the case. Going on a cruise reunion to several ports of call over the span of a week? You'll likely need to plan several activities throughout the trip to cover the hours out at sea when you're not sleeping, eating, or lounging at the pool.

Identify materials you'll need

The best thing about playing games and planning activities during your reunion is that, relatively speaking, they're cheap. Yet everything comes with a cost, so it's important to first figure out what, if anything, you'll need to purchase in order to host your reunion activities.



Activity type

Most reunion activities can be categorized into four categories. Games consist mainly of indoor activities like card, technology-based or board games, and outdoor games, like sports, obstacle courses and treasure hunts. Family history activities include storytelling, arts and crafts, family videos and genealogy reveals. Contests are excellent ways to break the ice or to build around, depending on if you're hosting a trivia event or a pie-eating contest. Finally, excursions are activities that require the group to move away from wherever the center of your reunion is and branch out to explore the surrounding area and its amenities.

Each of these reunion activities will present its own challenges in planning the materials you need, so make sure to be accommodating. Some of these will be quite simple and easy to pull off, while others will potentially require a bit more work, so don't be afraid to ask attendees for help if you're thinking about something elaborate.





Venue and locations

It's incredibly important to plan your reunion games and activities around the limitations, if any, provided by the location or venue in which you're working with. If your reunion is a weekend and involves a hotel or resort stay, speak with the staff ahead of time if you require usage of any of the larger facilities or need to make reservations. Alternatively, see if you can get any recommendations or group rates for local excursions.

If you're in a large, public area or are exploring a city, it's important to take note of who your participants are and make sure people stay in small groups if people decide they'd like to do different activities. Planning ahead is crucial here in order to make sure you link back up at the right time and don't miss any activities you may have planned for later in the day that include everyone in the group.

Establishing a budget

Paramount to successfully planning games and activities at your reunion is establishing a budget far in advance. Again, the price point per person will range from very expensive outings to ones that are nothing to sweat, depending on your reunion type, location and amount of participants. That said, there will always be plenty of games and activities that are incredibly cheap to host if you're looking to save money in this area and allocate it to a different facet of the reunion.

Once you've established a rough budget, it's imperative that you ask each family or individual participant for a non-refundable deposit and it's best when you do this by a specific deadline. When determining how much you ask for, take into consideration the financial situation of the individual you're dealing with and consider allowing monthly installments if needed.

Social media and selective feedback

Planning a reunion means communicating with dozens or even hundreds of people, most of whom you likely haven't seen in some time and aren't constantly in contact with. Luckily, social media platforms and electronic communication provide the tools you need to be successful in reaching as many of these people as possible in order to better gauge interest levels.

Take some of the pressure off yourself and simply ask your group members what they would like to do and if there is anything they would like to play. Use online survey tools like [SurveyMonkey.com](https://www.surveymonkey.com) or [Doodle.com](https://doodle.com) to suggest activities and times that will work for the majority of people. Creating a group on Facebook for your reunion enables you to invite intended participants to attend and share their feedback on what they'd like to play or do during the outing. You can make this page private so that only group members can see the content and share details about the upcoming reunion, while everyone's feedback is solicited and appreciated.



Selecting Games and Activities

For Your Reunion

Playing a game or engaging everyone with a fun activity is an excellent way to get the ball rolling at your reunion. Games get people interacting and reunion guests who potentially haven't seen each other in years may share many interests. Sometimes games can help force people outside their comfort zone in a good way and prevent people from being excluded when everyone gets together.

Games are also meant to be fun diversions and serve as an excellent way to keep kids engaged if they're coming to the reunion. Setting up games for all ages and ability levels and choosing activities that appeal to a wide array of people who may have differing interests will help ensure everyone has a good time. That will help you with future reunions as well, as everyone will look forward to the next big game down the road!



Age groups

When it's finally time to select the types of games and activities you'd like to have at your reunion it's extremely important to consider the ages of your participants. Namely, there are three main kinds of activities and games you can choose from games and activities for adults, for kids and everyone.

Certain activities like dinner-dances, theater nights, bar crawls and dinner shows might be entertaining for adults and either boring or downright unacceptable for kids. Conversely, treasure hunts, kids bop dance parties and a trip to the local Chuck E Cheese might not be a great time for younger adults or those without young children. These problems are avoided if your reunion isn't a mix of young and old, but if it is you should try to compromise and select games and activities that would include as many of the guests as possible.

Fitness levels

Like with the age groups represented at your reunion, you should consider the fitness levels of your participants before deciding to play any kind of game or physical activity that would limit or outright prohibit some of your participants from playing. After all, it may not be the best idea to have grandma playing in a tackle football game. And if grandma is fit enough for that game, it may not be the best idea for the young ones to partake in such a contest.

Additionally, avoiding sports that would greatly reward one or two participants at the expense of everyone else should be the goal as well. So while a tennis or pickleball tournament may be an appealing option, it probably isn't the best idea to pair the two best athletes in your bunch and let them run over everyone else, minimizing the fun to be had in the process.

Resources available

The location of the reunion and the resources available at your disposal will greatly impact the type of games and activities you partake in at a reunion. If you're planning a reunion in a destination city, find activity options that are within your established price range near the hotel, home-share rental or other lodging accommodation you've chosen. Additionally, finding a park nearby can be helpful if you're looking to host any sports-related games during the reunion.





Shared interests

Building reunion games and activities around a collection of shared interests is a great idea, particularly if you're partaking in a special-interest group reunion. It's worth investing the time and doing your homework to figure out which games or activities those attending your reunion will want to partake in. The skill level required may be crucial as well, as some activities may be more strenuous or demanding for those who aren't up to speed.

If your reunion group is stocked with high-energy guests, then you may want to invest some time in activities that they would benefit from and visit a theme park, casino or ballgame. High-energy guests can be great for competitions and sports games as well, sometimes getting those who would be less involved or hesitant to come out of their shells. If your guests do happen to be on the quiet side, there are always plenty of activities to pursue as well. Consider going to a museum, a painting lesson or a historic home tour, as well as canoe or pontoon boat rides.



Budgeting for Reunion Games and Activities

Even simple family reunions can cost a few hundred dollars and many will wind up costing several thousand dollars or more. If you're worried about yours breaking the bank, you can reduce the stress of the financial cost by planning ahead. Fortunately, games and activities have an immense opportunity to be one of the lowest costs factored into your budget.

Get a head start

Work out the basic details first and begin to create a loose budget for your event(s) from there. Consider every expense you may incur and then add an extra five to 10 percent on top as a cushion to protect you from unforeseen costs. If you're planning several excursions, don't forget to add a little extra as well for food and drink outside of your normal shared meals.

Open communication

Just because you've been selected as the point person for handling your games and activities budget doesn't mean you have to be the only one who deals with the associated challenges of managing it. Make sure you ask for help from fellow guests if the going gets tough or you're not entirely comfortable with the situation.

Additionally, make sure you reach out to destination managers for their input if you're on the fence about a particular activity and its utility for your reunion. Take feedback from your guests before choosing any game as to ensure that everyone will have a good time.

Ask for a deposit

Asking for a non-refundable deposit is important because it enables you to make purchases and provide deposits to vendors and venues. It also establishes exactly who is coming from the pool of guests you've invited to the reunion. If they've already invested in it, it's far less likely that they won't show up at the last minute.

Consider using a payment or expense-tracking app like Mint, Wally, or QuickBooks to track these deposits. MyEvent is another payment service which enables guests to register for the reunion, pay their deposits or attendance fees and make additional donations. The site allows you to see who's attending the reunion and can create family trees, memorials and more.





Executing Reunion Games and Activities

All of the hard work that you've put into making the reunion happen is about to come to fruition. When you get around to playing games or engaging in the activities that you planned, it's important to keep it simple and focus on having fun. After all, these areas should be the most stress-free parts of your reunion, regardless of if you're with family members you haven't seen in ages, old high school or college buddies or meeting up with a shared-interest group.



Keep it simple

Games and activities shouldn't take up much mental capacity to pull off. Simply put, you've come this far and it's time to unwind and relax. Enjoy spending time with people you may not have seen in a while and don't be shy about letting your competitive juices loose.

Focus on fun

At their core, reunions are about bringing people together and forging connections anew that may have lapsed over time. If you've done your homework and successfully gathered input from your guests before choosing what games to play and activities to do, you've ensured that a good time is to be had, so focus on enjoying it. If everything goes off without a hitch, you've done your part to ensure that everyone will be enthusiastic about coming back for the next reunion.



Conclusion

The social aspect of any reunion is obviously the main draw, and there are few opportunities throughout your time together that get the ball rolling as well as engaging in games and activities together. Playing games and hosting activities help relieve some of the stress that reunions can naturally bring on and let everyone unwind and have some fun with people they may not have seen in a while.

Reunion games and activities get people interacting and can reduce the initial social awkwardness for some guests who may not have seen each other in several years. By getting people interacting with each other outside their normal comfort zones you can unleash an unbridled joy among some of your guests who may not have felt that way without engaging in games or activities. These things are supposed to be fun, and games and activities provide fun for every guest in every age group. This will help you down the road when you're planning for your next reunion.

For these reasons and more, Destination Reunions is your home for the best reunion-based content on the market. Our mission is to continuously bring you the tools you need to successfully host—and keep hosting—reunions for many years. There is nothing quite as powerful as a connection, so we're glad you've made one with us.

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102 Games to Play

At Your Next Reunion



Getting the socializing going at a reunion sometimes means giving things a bit of a head start. And that's where games come in.

We've compiled a list of incredibly fun games for every reunion situation, but you can pull games from different categories together to cater to your crew's exact needs.

Ice Breakers

- Telephone
- Never Have I Ever
- Two Truths, One Lie
- Would You Rather

Family-First Games

- Family Bingo
- Treasure Hunt
- Jigsaw Puzzle Race
- UNO
- Obstacle Course Relay
- Briscola
- Musical Chairs

Kids Games

- Dance Party
- Water Balloon Toss
- Watermelon Eating Contest
- Gone Digging
- Dress Up
- Cleanup Hunt
- Simon Says
- Balloon Stomp
- Ping Pong Toss
- Family Talent Show
- Hopscotch
- Leapfrog
- Jump Rope Contest
- I Spy
- Cake Walk
- Duck Duck Goose

Games for the thinking (Wo)man

- Apples to Apples
- Trivia Contest
- Charades
- Cranium
- Donut Bobbing
- Who Am I?
- Cards Against Humanity
- Ticket to Ride
- Catan
- Custom Family Trivia
- Scrabble
- Jeopardy

Sports Games

- Pickleball
- Disc Golf
- Tag
- Bocce
- Kickball
- Softball
- Touch/Flag Football
- Horesehoes
- Frisbee
- Volleyball
- Badminton
- Wiffle Ball
- Field Hockey
- Lacrosse
- Tug of War
- Homemade Miniature Golf

Hobby Games

- Hot Potato
- Piñata
- Silly Face Competition
- Red Light, Green Light
- Scavenger Hunt
- Pin the Tail on the Donkey
- Sack Race
- Three-Legged Race
- War (Card Game)
- Poker
- Blackjack
- Board Games
- Card Games
- Croquet
- Life Stories
- “Minute to Win It”-Style Challenges
- Paper Airplane Competition
- Egg Toss
- Capture the Flag
- Hide and Seek
- Mummy Wrap
- Cooking Contest
- Giant Jenga
- Ring Toss
- Hula Hoop Competition
- Dizzy Bat Race
- Wheelbarrow Race
- Corn Hole
- Twister
- Cream Pie Toss
- Cupcake Decorating Contest
- Karaoke
- Darts
- Four Corners
- Summer Olympics
- Limbo
- Rock Paper Scissors Tournament

Class Reunion Games

- Memory Contest
- Red Rover
- Animal Calls
- Dodgeball
- Class Pictionary

Smartphone/TV Games

- Jackbox Party Pack
- Selfie Games: Sketchies
- Who Can't Draw?
- Teledoodle
- Cardcast

