

Carnegie Mellon University

Alumni Association

Event Ideas

Updated 2023

Prior to planning an event, check to see if there are other conflicting events already scheduled.

View the university calendar: <https://www.cmu.edu/events/>

View the dates of national and religious holidays: <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/>

View the events on the Carnegie Mellon University Alumni Association calendar:

<https://community.cmu.edu/s/events>

Be creative. Have fun. Work with your staff partner. Think about a broad range of alumni interests and life stages. Make your event “Uniquely CMU.”

For All Networks:

- Open planning meeting for volunteer recruitment and input (in person, conference call, Zoom)

Suggested Events:

Social Events

- Happy Hour
- Trivia Night
- Bowling
- Curling

Arts/Culture Events (check for group pricing)

- Theatre Event
 - o Consider including a talkback or backstage tour
 - o Check with CFA for any alumni in touring companies
- Symphony/Orchestra Concert
 - o Consider adding a tour of the location or a “meet and greet” with a CMU alumnus
- Gallery/Museum Tour
- Botanical Gardens

Outdoor Events

- City walking/biking tour
 - o Alumni with knowledge of a particular part of the city and/or that are a local tour guide could lead the tour.
- Architectural tours – walking or biking
- Boat tour/cruise
- Hiking or Nature Walk
- Whitewater Rafting
- Kayaking

Career Events

- Lunch/Dinner with 12 Tartans
- Plan a professional development dinner/dinner with 12 Tartans
- Career-focused panel, panel debate, or roundtable discussion
- Networking happy hour or speed networking event

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Community Service Events

- Food Bank
- Habitat for Humanity
- Ronald McDonald House
- Cradles to Crayons

Educational Events

- Select a book from the [CMU Alumni Association Faculty Bookshelf](#) for a discussion group
- Co-branded events with other alumni groups
- Faculty Lectures
 - o Networks should discuss faculty availability and funding with their staff partner

“Foodie” Events

- Baking/ Cooking class
- Chocolate Factory Tour and Tasting
- Restaurant Week
- “Meet the Chef”
- Brewery/ Winery/ Cidery/ Meadery Tour and Tasting
- Whiskey/ Scotch Tasting
- Coffee/ Tea Tasting

Sporting Events

- Carnegie Mellon Tartans vs. local university teams
 - o CMU’s athletic league includes Brandeis University, Case Western Reserve University, Emory University, New York University, University of Chicago, University of Rochester, Washington University in St. Louis and more.
- Professional Sporting events – MLB, NFL, NHL, NBA, etc.
- Stream Buggy Races at Carnival
 - o Host a Buggy watch event at a local alumnus’ home
- Coordinate a team to play with a local adult sporting league

Family-Friendly Activities

- Go-Karting
- Visit the Zoo/Aviary
- Visit a Children’s Museum/Science Center
- Hayride/Apple picking
- Summer picnic/Cookout
- Holiday gathering

If you are interested in coordinating an event, please fill out the [Volunteer Interest Form](#) and the [Volunteer Confidentiality Agreement](#) or contact your CMUAA staff partner.