

AAA Las Vegas Corporate Challenge

As I eagerly watched my friends compete in Corporate Challenge events, I knew I needed to get AAA back into Corporate Challenge. After gathering all the necessary details and information, I presented a power-point presentation to management. To my surprise, I was approved and given budget to run Corporate Challenge for AAA. I was extremely excited but said to myself, "now what?????" "What did I just do???" I had no idea how big this thing they called Corporate Challenge was. The challenge went from March and ends in the middle of June with about 35 events. To name a few: billiards, shuffleboard, fencing, canoeing, cycling, archery, darts, horseshoes and soccer. With so many events to fill, you could not walk fast enough through the halls of AAA before finding yourself signing up for any particular event. I welcomed and actually encouraged people to participate in as many events as their bodies can handle, or as one would say, "until the rapid, unforeseen depletion of ant-inflammatory medications drives them to having to purchase them on the street."

Without a doubt, everyone at AAA was so supportive with spirit and company pride that would stagger the imagination. From start to finish, as Corporate Challenge went on, AAA's collective hunger for success grew stronger and stronger. Our momentum just kept on building. After every event, there was always someone that would say "How did we do?" "What place are we in now?" "Are there any events still open?" "Are we still in 3rd?" "We are not losing to those Librarians!!!" "Those Sandwich people..." In no time, we were highly visible and a force to contend with. Now all the companies were on the lookout for AAA.

The best part of this whole experience was the ability to join up with truly wonderful people from other departments and other buildings, people we would not otherwise ever had a chance to meet. We created new friendships and also solidified existing ones. Standing side by side in competition with one another boosted morale and gave Team AAA something to look forward to at the end of the day or the upcoming

weekend. Not only did participating as a team create better relationships but it made us more active (without knowing), and for some, it was life changing. For others, they continue to be active and look forward to next years challenge.

Spear-heading Corporate Challenge provided me with leadership skills that I will always be so grateful for. It strengthened my ability to communicate with employees up to management. I gained confidence to communicate with other departments, claims and the district offices throughout Las Vegas. I arranged and facilitated meetings. I created and managed a committee of 10 people, consisting of employees and supervisors. I had team captains for every event (30-35) and made sure each team was well equipped for their scheduled day of competition. AAA Corporate Challenge t-shirts were made that were proudly worn to each event. A Corporate Challenge AAA banner was created, which we displayed during the Opening Ceremony Parade of Banners that took place on Fremont Street, Downtown Las Vegas in front of hundreds.

After it was all said and done, two out of the three years, the City of Las Vegas (through auditions) chose someone from AAA to sing the National Anthem. We had over 100 people participate in any given event(s) each year. Collectively we brought home over 100 individual medals ranging from GOLD, SILVER and BRONZE. We competed against 15 other companies within the Las Vegas community and secured 3rd place for all three years. In 2010, we had over 850 hours of combined volunteer hours for this Corporate Challenge event alone.

These past 3 years of organizing Corporate Challenge, I never thought of it as "volunteering". But overall it has taught me that "Volunteering can be an exciting, growing, enjoyable experience. It is truly gratifying to serve a cause, practice one's ideals, work with people, solve problems, see benefits, and know one had a hand in them" -

Harriet Naylor.