Advice, Examples, and Ideas in Event Planning

Events connect members of your local Chapman family to each other, your community, and back to Chapman, in addition to helping cultivate new leaders and demonstrating ability and enthusiasm. A good way to start is by engaging your membership through surveys; this will help you to understand the demographics of your group and to focus your energy on their interests.

Ideas for event planning

- Consistency is key – Plan on organizing four events a year
- Leverage existing events and incorporate private tours or talks to enhance these experiences
- Interact with visiting faculty members and senior staff
- Find the hidden treasure venues around you that peak curiosity
- Utilize local Panther talent, including those teaching or studying at local Universities
- Involve your constituents in local community service efforts
- Harness enthusiasm and engage many generations with a large event every few years
- Continuing education – book clubs, faculty forums, and/or discussion groups around a theme or food
- Plan an event around a performance or exhibition (and perhaps connecting it to Yale alumni talent)
- Head outdoors for observation, conservation, or exercise
- Engage in Panther athletics – either by playing or streaming a Chapman game
- Invite visiting athletics teams or performance groups to visit your club, or plan other opportunities to incorporate current students
- Establish a position for a young alumni on your board
- Target activities at your next generation of volunteers
- Plan family-centric activities or arranging for babysitting for large events
- Networking opportunities including forums, panels, or casual receptions

Some ideas may include:

- Chappy Hour at a local restaurant, bar or club;
- Hiking trails, team scavenger hunts, or boardwalk bike ride, tubing down the local river
- volunteer at a soup kitchen;
- beach clean-up (follow with Family Day at the Beach)
- wine tasting; apple picking; picnic, Backyard BBQ or potluck
- local sports game;
- lei making; gather for a free concert, outdoor movie night,
- walking tour of downtown; coffee with a visiting dean or faculty
• holiday adopt-a-family program; food bank donations or volunteer collection of canned goods.
• Work with Habitat for Humanity or similar to do part of a house build
• softball game—team up with closest grad year alumni or shared program
• museum meet-up;
• Zoom Meeting—focus on a shared topic, subject matter expert within the group style presentation or favorite Chapman memory (everyone shares), etc. Find commonalities through advance questions: dorm, transfer student, program area/subject, Sweethearts, etc.