

OFFICE PARTIES

Three ways to celebrate the season while keeping costs low and spirits high



Stocking Decorating Contest stock UP Hand out plain stockings and have the staff unleash their inner artists. "This isn't about who's craftiest. It's about creativity," says L.A.-based party planner Marley Majcher. FUN TIP Give coworkers a quirky theme to work with, like "celebrities, current events or hobbies," Majcher suggests. "They can make an Obama stocking or glue Kate Gosselin hair on top. It'll get people thinking—and laughing."



PARTY IDEA #2

Top Chef Challenge

CONFERENCE ROOM COOK-OFF

"Put a twist on the traditional potluck party and turn it into a friendly competition," says Majcher.

FUN TIP Have staffers sign up to compete in categories such as best casserole or best dessert, so you get a variety of dishes to sample.



PARTY IDEA #3

Wine Tasting on a Dime

BYOB BASH Ask everyone to bring in a bottle of wine under \$7. Then hide the labels with wrapping paper so staffers have to guess the kind of wine they're drinking. Bonus: You may discover a tasty wine you like for less! FUN TIP Accidentalwine.com offers bottles with ruined labels, which means they have discounted price tags too.

By Suzanne Zuckerman