

JOURNEY TO JACKSON HOLE  
Cowboys and skiers meet corporate groups

ALL ABOARD!  
Trains, hotels and plenty of history

# mountain *meetings*

..... THE GREAT .....

## OUTDOORS

Let your team blaze the trails  
*with Mother Nature*



**PLUS:**

Hikes & Pints  
Mixes Nature  
& Beer

.....  
Timberline  
Lodge  
Turns 75



SPRING SUMMER 2013





# OUTRAGEOUS OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

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LEAVE THE BOARDROOM BEHIND TO  
BOLSTER YOUR TEAM ALFRESCO.

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*By Julie Scheff*







PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LODGE & SPA AT BRUSH CREEK RANCH

➤➤ The Lodge & Spa at Brush Creek Ranch has plenty of indoor fun for the evenings.





**W**hen your gathering territory is in the mountains west of the Mississippi, let the crystal-clear rivers and lakes, fresh air and amazing landscapes set the scene. Whether you are ready to wing shoot in Saratoga, Wyo., or race through the woods of Montana looking for a fictional lost team member via snowmobile, *Mountain Meetings* rounded up some truly organic team-building adventures that call for adrenaline, teamwork and a heavy dose of Mother Nature.

#### *Rescue 911:*

##### **BOZEMAN, MONTANA**

Meeting and event planning company A Meeting by Design offers a rare blend of nature, adventure and team-building exercises. One truly exceptional activity offered is the Snowmobile Rescue Package. "The concept of this exercise is to see your surroundings and adapt," says Veronica Haynes, general manager.

Attendees divide up into groups and set out on snowmobiles with a GPS, map, shovel and basic first-aid kit. They travel through the mountains in search of a fallen teammate. Once the teammate is found, they treat the wound and construct a stretcher to carry the person out. "This same package can be done in summer with ATVs in areas such as Taylor Fork and Buck Ridge," explains Haynes. "We can accommodate groups up to 25."

#### *Wild, Wild West:*

##### **SARATOGA, WYOMING**

The Lodge & Spa at Brush Creek Ranch is an exclusive, independent guest ranch perfect for private corporate events and those who





The Lodge & Spa at Brush Creek



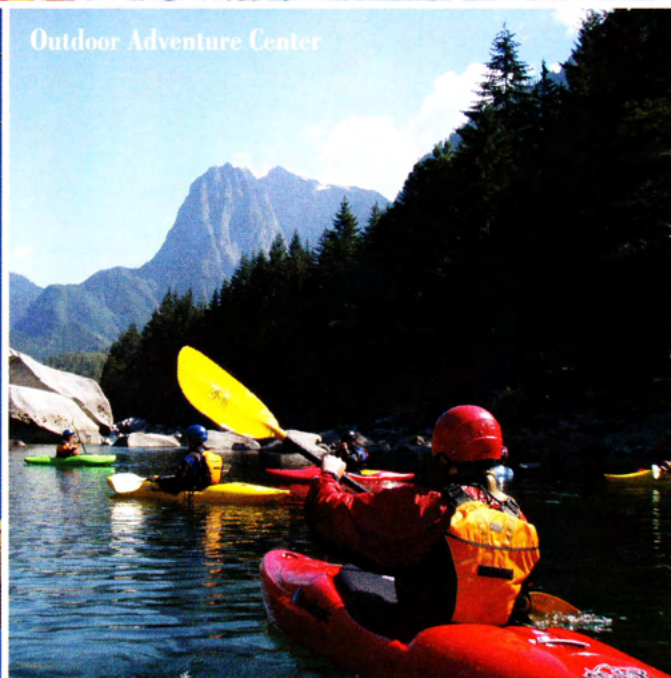
Taos Ski Valley



Getaway Adventures



Adventura



Outdoor Adventure Center



CBST Adventures



A Meeting by Design



want a serious outdoor Western adventure. The ranch is set amid a century-old working cattle ranch outside of Saratoga in the south central North Platte River Valley. The ranch covers 15,000 acres and borders one million acres of federal wild lands. Groups have plenty of room to move about and truly take in Wyoming.

The Lodge & Spa at Brush Creek Ranch features nearly 19,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor meeting spaces, along with a collection of new and renovated guest cabins and quarters, a full-service spa and a vast array of outdoor adventures, including high and low ropes courses, paintball, a shooting range, fly-fishing, horseback riding, hiking, mountain biking, ATVs, wing shooting, hunting and much more. All corporate adventures can include an all-inclusive package or a custom-tailored package for any group size ranging from two to 160. The resort and setting are a genuine example of the iconic landscape that has shaped so much of American history. Any group will appreciate the ranch's dedication to sustainable practices.

### *Healing Spirits:* **TAOS, NEW MEXICO**

Taos, N.M., one of the West's most storied and historic settings, allows participants to reflect best practices and teamwork. Begin the day at Ojo Caliente Mineral Springs Resort & Spa, where the out-of-the-ordinary character of this natural setting encourages participants to abandon stress and connect to a tranquil energy where ideas flow and bonds are formed.

Come evening, participants gather at the base of Taos Ski Valley to take a high-altitude moonlit hike to Williams Lake at 11,000 feet. The nighttime hike, offered by the resort, requires teams to execute a typical mountain hike in an unusual and out-of-the-box manner, forcing them to think differently and work collaboratively in tackling a task. The setting and experience combine to form a memorable trip and a deep connection to the area.

### *Mountain Fun, City Convenience:* **WOODINVILLE INDEX, WASHINGTON**

Can't make it mountain high? No worries. Take your team to Adventura's aerial adventure park for a team-building adventure 45 feet in the air, found in the heart of Woodinville wine country just 30 miles from downtown Seattle. This outdoor aerial park is a set of tree-high platforms connected by various zip lines. Through climbing, teamwork, flying through the air and some other high-air acrobatics, participants are guided through the course.

Depending on the program, there can be a mix of team-building activities both on the ground and course-based. "Programs start on the ground, and we transfer the conversations from ground to high course through a wide variety of team and individual challenges," says Scott Chreist, company director. "The beauty of this process is that on the surface it doesn't seem like we're exploring work concepts, but the moment we talk about it, it becomes obvious that every facet of playing together translates into the team environment."

Surrounded by snowcapped mountain peaks, granite cliffs

**"Being outdoors requires a willingness to adapt to the situation and your surroundings. It also encourages resourcefulness and problem solving, all of which are better accomplished as a team."**

*—Blair Corson, Outdoor Adventure Center.*

and miles of trails and waterways, and located only 25 minutes from Seattle, the community of Index is an ideal place to facilitate team-building activities and group adventures for 20 to 200. "Being outdoors requires a willingness to adapt to the situation and your surroundings. It also encourages resourcefulness and problem solving, all of which are better accomplished as a team," emphasizes Blair Corson, owner of the local company Outdoor Adventure Center.

Rafting, hiking, geocaching, scavenger hunts and climbing events develop teamwork and collaboration while challenging each participant to function out of their comfort zone. Corson notes, "We have developed many activities that encourage teams to communicate, solve problems and achieve goals while having fun!"

### *Wine Country:* **NAPA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA**

Napa Valley is a world-renowned wine region, but often gets overlooked as an adventure-lover's paradise. It somehow slips minds as a mountain destination, even though it's flanked by the Mayacamas Range to the west and Vaca Mountains on the east. Napa boasts nine towns, more than 400 wineries and a plethora of meeting spaces to accommodate the popularity of this location for both tourism and major events. The amazing food, scenery and activities are just a short commute from San Francisco, making Napa convenient and accessible to many.

Groups of up to 200 can rent bicycles and conduct their own tour



# OUTDOOR SCHOOLS & VOLUNTEERING

Outdoor schools scattered throughout the West embody strategic thinking and teamwork skills, challenging participants in unique and adventurous ways daily. Explore these schools for some ideas, and consider volunteering for a project to improve outdoor spaces.

## BOULDER OUTDOOR SURVIVAL SCHOOL, UTAH

Groups can take courses that range from three to 28 days at the oldest and largest school of its kind in the nation, started in 1968. The southern Utah organization offers training, explorer, skills, field and custom courses. [boss-inc.com](http://boss-inc.com)

## LIFESONG WILDERNESS ADVENTURES, OREGON

This adventure organization teaches outdoor survival courses by Mark Wienert, a consultant to the famous *Man vs. Wild* television show. His sessions with groups are educational, challenging and memorable. Choose from courses such as fire making, shelter building, animal tracking, search and rescue tracking, snares and flares, edible plants and mushrooms and many others. [lifesongadventures.com](http://lifesongadventures.com)

## OUTDOOR WILDERNESS LEADERSHIP SCHOOL, MONTANA

Utilizing some of the best team-building facilitators in the nation, OWLS caters to corporate clients and has worked with more than 100,000 participants since its inception in 1996.

The school offers everything from certifications through the American Mountain Guide Association and Desert Mountain Medicine to corporate outdoor team-building adventures at skill-appropriate levels. There is access to rugged terrain minutes from the school. [owlsadventures.com](http://owlsadventures.com)

## GIVING BACK TO NATURE

Don't forget how popular and rewarding outdoor community work can be for groups. From helping build a trailhead at 13,000 feet in the Colorado Rockies to much-needed stream work in Montana and Idaho or a simple but get-your-hands-dirty park cleanup, helping with community resources is a win-win.



of the area for a leisurely ride. More adventurous? Look to the Napa River and three small lakes scattered about in the region offering abundant water recreation including kayaking, water challenge courses and more. A 400-acre wildlife sanctuary provides tours in open-air Jeeps for large groups. Balloons Above the Valley, Getaway Adventures, Napa Valley Adventure Tours, Napa Jet Center, Napa Valley Bike Tours and Napa Valley Wine provide every possible outlet for California sun-ripened fun with a bit of thrill.

## Pop Culture: TELLURIDE, BEAVER CREEK WESTERN SLOPE, COLORADO

Mark Hojegan of CBST Adventures knows all about *The Amazing Race* craze. "It's our most popular request for a team activity, as it allows companies to create a custom adventure," he explains. "Telluride is a great backdrop for this style of competition and outdoor team-building experiments. The two towns (Telluride and Mountain Village) are connected by a gondola, which makes for a fun adventure in itself." Options for the Telluride Amazing Race include Western dress-up skits at Sheridan Opera House, painting competitions at Ah Haa School for the Arts, and Colorado mining and culture trivia at Telluride Historical Museum.

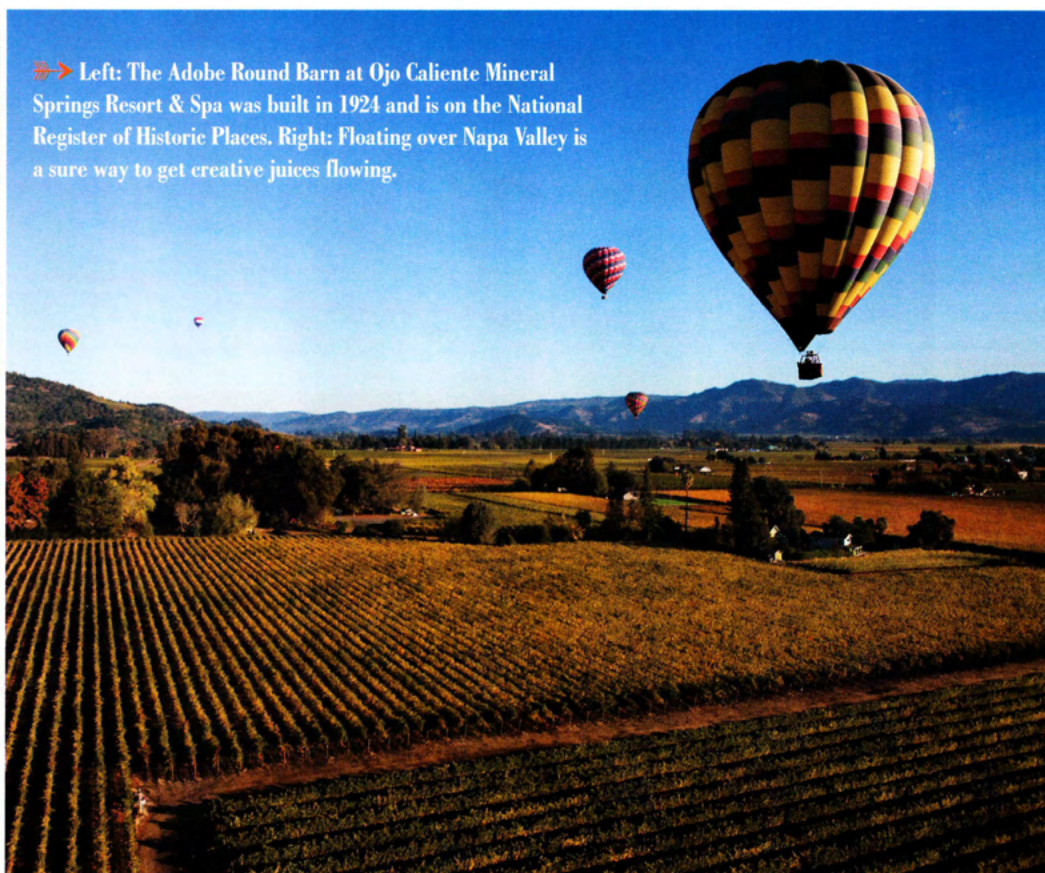
"Summer and winter Olympics are also popular corporate team-building themes, since the Greek games re-emerge every two years with obscure and specialized sports," Hojegan says. "We just did a winter

PHOTO COURTESY OF: OJO CALIENTE MINERAL SPRINGS RESORT & SPA.





➡ Left: The Adobe Round Barn at Ojo Caliente Mineral Springs Resort & Spa was built in 1924 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Right: Floating over Napa Valley is a sure way to get creative juices flowing.



event in Beaver Creek where we rented out the ice rink in the middle of the village and hosted ice hockey slap shot, curling and ice croquet competitions.” Popular summer options include shotput, javelin, rock climbing walls, tricycle races and blindfolded soccer.

Come summer, the Western Slope abounds with outdoor adventures. “We have a great time entertaining groups with our Outdoor Survival Competitions, 4x4 Road Rally Races and Eco Challenges, which are staged at various ranches and resort properties,” he says. “Just let us know where in Colorado you’re going for your meeting, and we’ll show up with some exciting options for your group.”

## *Saddle Up:* **TUCSON, ARIZONA**

Like Napa Valley, Tucson doesn’t immediately come to mind as a mountain meeting destination, but the city sits between the Santa Catalina Mountains to the north and Tucson Mountains to the west. Horse and saddle are always a great combination for adventure, so let the cowboys and their trusty steeds do the physical labor so your group can connect on an emotional level.

At Cocoraque Ranch and Pavilion, teams can drive a herd of cattle from one pasture to another, learning not only how to keep the cattle together and moving, but also picking up on fun Old West terms that surely will be repeated back at the office. Once the cattle drive is complete, return to the ranch house for food and beverage and a pavilion equipped with separate areas for volleyball, badminton, mushball, flag football, kickball and horseshoes. Customize any event by adding a hayride, trail ride or Western games such as mechanical calf roping and quick draw. 🐾

## **GET CONNECTED**

**ARIZONA**  
COCORAQUE RANCH & PAVILION  
520.682.8594 // [cocoraque.com](http://cocoraque.com)

**CALIFORNIA**  
NAPA VALLEY  
707.226.7455 // [napachamber.org](http://napachamber.org)

**COLORADO**  
CBST ADVENTURES  
970.668.8900 // [cbstadventures.com](http://cbstadventures.com)

**MONTANA**  
A MEETING BY DESIGN  
406.586.4441 // [ameetingbydesign.com](http://ameetingbydesign.com)

**NEW MEXICO**  
TAOS SKI VALLEY  
866.968.7386 // [skitaos.org](http://skitaos.org)

**WASHINGTON**  
ADVENTURA  
425.868.7972 // [adventura.co](http://adventura.co)

**OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CENTER**  
425.883.9039 // [OutdoorAdventureCenter.com](http://OutdoorAdventureCenter.com)

**WYOMING**  
THE LODGE & SPA AT BRUSH CREEK RANCH  
307.327.5284 // [brushcreekranch.com](http://brushcreekranch.com)