Event Plan Blue Print

A Guide to Developing and Executing a Successful Event

Creative Financial Group

March 2012



Table of Contents

	introduction	3
16-12 Weeks before event	Chapter 1: Developing an Event Strategy Establishing a Steering Committee Identifying Goals and Objectives	4 5
12-8 Weeks before event	Chapter 2: Planning the Event Creating the Budget Research/Determine Locations/Menu Develop Agenda	8 9 10
7-5 Weeks before event	Chapter 3: Marketing the Event Save the Date/Pre-Call Telephone Script Room Set-Up Marketing Materials for Event	11 12 13
4-1 Weeks before event	Chapter 4: Finalizing Event Plans Staffing Presentation Final Guest list	14
Day of Event	Chapter 5: Day of Event Maximizing Your Event	15
1-6 Weeks after event	Chapter 6: Post Marketing Strategies Follow-Up Tracking Ongoing Cultivation	16
	Appendix A: Event Submission Process Event Request Form Invitation Request Form	17 18 19
	Appendix B: Event Specific Success Tips Golf Outing Client Appreciation	20
	Teambuilding Event Wine Tasting Sports Box/Event	21
	Appendix C: Sample Post Follow-Up Letters	22
	Appendix D: Event Sign In Form	23

Introduction

This Event Blueprint has been designed to take you through the process of planning, hosting and maximizing an event. It includes important information such as:

- Planning Success Tips
- Marketing Support
- Recommended Timelines
- Pre and Post Marketing Strategies
- Budgeting and Tracking

Before you begin the planning process for your event, please appoint one person on your team (team leader-steering committee) who will be responsible for reviewing and following the suggested approaches outlined within this blue print and coordinating your event with the marketing department.

Additionally, it is strongly recommended that the minimum time to plan a (successful) event is twelve weeks. Taking a proactive approach to planning your events will result in new relationships and ultimately new business.

The following guide is by no means all-inclusive, but it is designed to assist you in planning your team events. Please adapt this guide to fit your needs.

Developing an Event Strategy

16-12 weeks before the Event

Identify Your Event Steering Committee and Team Leader

The first step in planning your event is to develop a steering committee. This committee should be created at least twelve weeks before the event date. It should include at least two people from your team as well as your team coach and the marketing coordinator. There should be one person who is considered the team leader of the steering committee. He or she will ultimately be responsible for ensuring the event plan has been properly developed and implemented. Communication is a key ingredient to a successful event. Therefore; the steering committee's team leader will also be responsible for providing an update at each team meeting.

The team leader will be responsible for interacting with the team to obtain approvals and feedback, executing the components of the event plan and ensuring post marketing activities are fulfilled. Additionally, the team leader is responsible for creating the event timeline, submitting all required documents to marketing for compliance purposes, adhering to budget, executing marketing plan and providing updates to the team on a consistent basis.

It is recommended that the steering committee hold regular meetings. Create a schedule for committee meetings and prepare agendas for each meeting. During the first few months of the planning process, consider meeting twice per month. As the event approaches, the steering committee may meet weekly.

Checklist:

12 Weeks before event:

Identify members of steering committee
Appoint team leader
Create schedule for committee meetings
Add event to team meeting agenda
Contact Marketing event coordinator; invite to meeting
Complete Chapter 1 during/before first committee meeting

Developing an Event Strategy (continued)

16-12 weeks before the Event

Defining the purpose of the event is a critical component of an event plan. A strategic assessment of goals, messaging and planning will further ensure that the event provides tangible value to the team. The following questionnaire will serve as the basis for your event plan.

Dete	rmine the objectives of the event (or what you want to accomplish). By hosting this event, our team wants to:
	Attract new clients
	Educate clients
	Say thank you to clients
	Bring clients, prospects and suspects together/networking
	Reinforce CFG's knowledge and credibility in the marketplace
	Bring team closer together –teambuilding
	Attract new recruits
	Promote a product or service
	Obtain recommendations from clients
	Other:
Defin	ne the target audience:
	Tier One Clients
	Tier Two Clients
	Tier One Suspects/Prospects
	Tier Two Suspects/Prospects
	CFG Team
	Potential Recruits
	Male Only
	Female Only
	Couples
	Other:
What	t are the criteria producers will use to choose attendees?

Developing an Event Strategy (continued)

16-12 weeks before the Event

Deter	mine the type of event. Our team wo	uld like	e to host a:			
	Golf Outing					
	Wine Tasting					
	Women-Only Event					
	Sports Box					
	Seminar					
	Client-Only Dinner					
	Gentleman's Outing/Cigar Evening					
	Client-Couple Event					
	Boat/Cruise Event					
	Other					
	nake this event worthwhile?	ur ever	nt over another, including not attending at all? What			
	Unique Location or Activity					
	High-End Dining or Locale					
	Engaging Speaker					
	Current Topic					
	Social Environment					
	Networking Opportunities					
	Other					
This e	event will take place:					
	Morning		Weekday			
	Afternoon		Weeknight			
	Evening		Weekend			
This e	This event will take place during the month of:					
	January		July			
	February		August			
	March		September			
	April		October			
	May		November			
	June		December			

Developing an Event Strategy (continued)

16-12 weeks before the Event

What dates/days of the week are being considered for the event?
•
•
•
•
When determining the timing of the event, consider:
☐ Are any other teams planning a similar event? Instead of competing, consider collaborating.
☐ Have you checked the Agency event calendar to ensure there is no duplication of efforts?
☐ When are your guests most likely available to attend based on their schedules?
☐ When is the best time for your team to hold the event?
The number of guests (other than CFG personnel) we would like to attend:

A few additional considerations:

Consider inviting at least twice as many individuals as you want to attend.

- Conduct an initial team meeting to determine event plans and the Marketing support needed, as well as how the financials will be handled. (Reference Chapter 2 "Event Planning Sheet")
- Create an RSVP tracking form. Use the following fields: Client Name, Producer Name, Telephone Number, Address, Email (if applicable), Attending, Bringing a Guest, Name of Guest, Actually Attended

Planning the Event

12-8 weeks before the Event

Week 12

Create the event budget. Track actual cost of event. Finalize how the team will be charged

Site	Estimated	Actual
Room fees		
Site staff		
A/V Equipment		
Tables and Chairs		
Total		

Marketing & PR	Estimated	Actual
PR Services		
Printing		
Postage		
Total		

Miscellaneous	Estimated	Actual
Parking		
Transportation		
Supplies		
Other		
Total		

Refreshments	Estimated	Actual
Food		
Drinks		
Linens, Dishes, Utensils		
Staff and Gratuities		
Total		

Total Expenses	Estimated	Actual	

Planning the Event (continued)

12-8 weeks before the Event

Wee	ek 1	2		
	Begin researching locations; set up appointments to view locations & discuss event with location representative.			
	Base 1.	d on the type of event, what 3 best locations come to mind?		
	2.			
	3.			
	Whe	re would your guests prefer to attend this event?		
	Whi	ch location could potentially increase the RSVP rate?		
	Can	the venue accommodate production, A/V, sound or other technical needs?		
	Doe	s the event location offer convenient parking?		
	If the	e event is held during the summer months, is there sufficient air conditioning?		
	Can	the venue accommodate outdoor or patio access if necessary?		
	Doe	s the condition of the facility reflect the high standards of your team and the agency?		
	Wha	t is the tenure of the conference manager or catering manager?		
	Will	the venue management treat you like a VIP or just one of multiple programs?		
	Is th	e conference manager willing to be flexible to accommodate your requests?		
	Do t	he venues you're considering fall within your budget?		
Wee	ek 1	1		
	Coo	rdinate location details and speaker details		
		Does the speaker have any special requests such as video clips, wireless microphone, laptop, lcd projector, flipcharts, etc.?		
		Based on the type of event held; investigate need for special permits, insurance, etc.?		
	Revi	ew and choose food and beverage options		
		Determine timing of food distribution and/or if service will be available during event		
		Consider time of day (ie: heavy appetizers vs. light, main course, etc.)		
		Consider type of food and seating to accommodate (ie: guests with plates on their laps) Buffet or sit down menu?		
		Are there any dietary restrictions?		
		Will alcoholic beverages be served?		

Planning the Event (continued)

12-8 weeks before the Event

W	امما	k	1	1
ww		II %		

	Formulate agenda for event (times, presentation titles, speaker full names, bios, photos-if needed) Decide who will do the Welcome and Closing (aka 'MC').
	☐ Provide event 'MC' with specific information to convey such as:
	☐ Completing Evaluation Form at End of Event
	☐ Whether to ask questions during the presentation or hold to the end
	☐ What time beverage and/or food service ends
	□ Location of restrooms
We	ek 10 Book a photographer/videographer (if needed); Marketing has a list of recommended vendors
	Reserve any needed audio/visual equipment (Tech Support)
	Notify the event location representative of the technology needs for the presentation
We	ek 9
	Develop team's invitee list(s) (reference your responses from Chapter 1)
	Submit Event/Invitation Request Forms to Marketing (page 13)
We	ek 8
	Check status of event/invitation compliance approval with Marketing

Marketing the Event

7-5 weeks before the Event

☐ Send out Save the Date to team's group of invitees (reference page 13 to order)

Sample:



- Print out Call List and Save the Date to give to the calling agent/person(s) on the team
- Begin to call list of invitees to get them excited about the event

Sample Telephone Script:

Hello, my name is ______, calling from the ______ team at Creative Financial Group. I hope you received our invitation to the (insert type of event), to be held on (insert date). Do you think you will be able to attend?

If yes: That's great news! We look forward to seeing you.

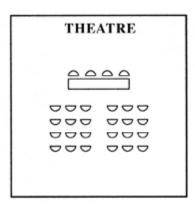
If no: That's too bad. But we'll be sure to send you a recap of the event.

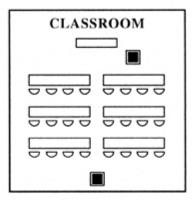
Marketing the Event (continued)

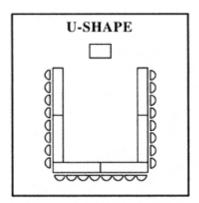
7-5 weeks before the Event

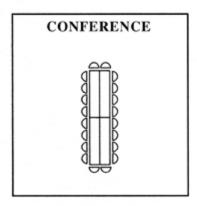
☐ Confirm menu, room design, technology needs, and parking

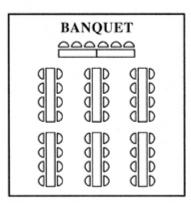
Sample:

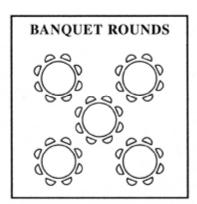












Marketing the Event

7-5 weeks before the Event

Week 6

- Complete estimate sheet, and get approval on financials
- ☐ Develop the invitation (see sample to the right)
- Send invitation to compliance for approval

Week 5

- ☐ Send out all invitations to team's group of invitees
- ☐ Print out or email call lists and invitation to give to the reps doing the calling.
- □ Determine if the event is newsworthy. One way to determine newsworthiness is by evaluating the elements of the event. Consider if the event offers any current information local newspaper readers or radio listeners would be interested in learning more about.

CREATIVE FINANCIAL GROUP INVITES YOU TO ATTEND

Current Strategies in



Investing in Uncertain Times

Speaker Name

Managing Associate & Investment Specialist

RSVP by March 4th to Contact Name at 610.455.1212 name@cfg.nef.com

Harry will discuss market cycles and how they influence long-term investment results. He will present a practical approach to aligning one's investments with a variety of economic environments: inflationary, deflationary, and stable environments.

Estate Planning in the New Tax Environment

Speaker Name, JD, LLM
Senior Planning Strategist

A 20-year veteran attorney, Paul designs estate plans for business owners and for owners of land and mineral rights. He will discuss the new tax environment and present a case study of advanced techniques.



Agent Name is a registered representative of New England Securities (member FINRA/SIPC), a broker-dealer and registered investment adviser. Creative Financial Group is not affiliated with New England Securities. L0211161168[exp0211][DE.NJ.PA]

A media advisory will be developed and distributed should your event be deemed newsworthy.

☐ Please discuss your event with the marketing department to determine if it is newsworthy.

Finalizing Event Plans

4-1 weeks before the Event

We	eek 4					
	Confirm who will be staffing the event and their roles					
	Make follow-up calls to all invitees to register them for event					
	Track Registration (use Tracking Form/reference Chapter 1)					
	Develop "Introduction Presentation" w/ team (if applicable)					
W	eek 3					
	Develop the follow-up letters: attendee & non-attendee and send to compliance (samples available in Appendix B)					
	Develop the event overview (if applicable)					
	Decide what is going to be included in the seminar packets (agenda, evaluation, speaker handouts, other pieces, etc.)					
	Forward each agent their registered guest list (Call each team member to remind them)					
W	eek 2					
	Finalize all last minute details/confirm with Speaker (marketing to assist if necessary)					
	Final RSVP list due to event manager at location					
	Create 'Do Not Forget" list for event day (ie: batteries, nametags, RSVP tracking form, sign in sheets, speaker contact information, etc)					
W	eek 1					
	Call to confirm agenda and directions to the event					
	Put together seminar packets (agenda, evaluation, speakers' bio & handouts, note pages, company literature, etc.)					
	Print registration list and name tags for event (Mail-merge directions available from marketing)					
	Print Event Sign In sheets (Appendix C)					
	Create seating chart for guests where appropriate					
	☐ Seat clients next to prospects					
	☐ Avoid "clusters" of CFG personnel					
	Review "Day Of Checklist"					
	Confirm technology at the event location					
	Check batteries, etc. on all in-house A/V equipment; make sure to have extra audio and video tapes					
	Confirm Photographer/Videographer					

Finalizing Event Plans (continued)

4-1 weeks before the Event

3 Business Days Before Event	3	Busin	ess	Days	Before	Event
------------------------------	---	--------------	-----	------	---------------	--------------

- ☐ Coordinate presentation set up with in-house tech. support (if applicable)
- ☐ Give location final head count

1 Business Day Before Event

☐ Pick up in-house reserved equipment

Chapter 5 Day of Event

Day of the Event

	Arrive early t	o event so guests	are not waiting
--	----------------	-------------------	-----------------

- □ Double check the room set up
- ☐ Add table numbers if assigning seating
- ☐ Review "Do Not Forget" List
- ☐ Set up registration table, nametags, signage, A/V equipment, food & beverage, etc.
- ☐ Make sure to attend to all guests (work the room)
 - ☐ Take the initiative to approach others, introduce yourself, and share a piece of information.
 - ☐ Listen carefully to discover shared interests.
 - ☐ Make introductions to other guests or internal personnel.

Follow Up/ROI/ Tracking

1-4 weeks after the Event

Po	st:						
	Begin post follow-up invoicing						
	Provide marketing with paid invoices for sponsors for their participation if applicable						
	Deve	op call list of attendees and non-attendees for team					
	Send	Thank you notes to speakers other than CFG or TAC					
	Send	Thank you notes to all attendees					
	Pay o	r submit POs for all balances for vendors					
	Finali	ze team charges					
	Evalu	ate the event					
		Review any marketing surveys that were filled out by your guests					
		Did the team meet their event objectives? (as outlined in Chapter 1)					
		Did the team meet the budgetary goals?					
		Was there enough marketing for this event? How could it have been made better?					
		Would the team utilize the same speaker? Host at the same location?					
		Was the event well attended?					
	Team to	review which attendees and non-attendees should receive follow up letters					
		determine if an event overview will be mailed with the follow up letters; if so, work with marketing lop event overview					
	Once co	ompliance approved, mail out selected attendee and non-attendee letters & overviews					
		t call lists for team members of attendees and non-attendees that were sent a follow-up mailing; a copy of what was sent					
W	eeks 1	& 2 after event					
Ma	ke follow	-up phone calls to your list of attendees and non-attendees to set up appointments					
W	eeks 2	& 3 after event					
		vattendee or non-attendee that does not result in an appointment to cultivation program (like PDI wsletter)					
	Calcula	te the ROI (return on investment)					
	Referen	ce completed budget sheet (Chapter 2)					
	Referen	ce tracking and event sign in sheets (Chapter 1, Chapter 4)					
		arterly basis, the Steering Committee Team Leader should work with the team to receive updates on					

APPENDIX A

Marketing Event Submission Request

For marketing assistance with coordination of team events, please use the following for submission of event requests.

Please submit all requests for team events and invitations to Lauren Berardinelli, *Marketing Events Coordinator*, at least 8 weeks in advance of the event using the following form. Marketing will handle all of the following:

- Coordinate all details of your event with your team leader, ensuring all pre, present and post event marketing is completed
- Schedule and confirm all speakers
- Identify presentation materials
- Coordinate with sponsors where applicable
- File event and sponsorship for approval with compliance
- Design save-the-date and/or invitation
- File invitations for compliance approval
- Print invitations if requested (for a fee of \$.50 per invitation with envelopes)
- Supply email ready file for save-the-date and/or invitation
- Invoice sponsors and complete the submission to NES for reimbursement

If you need help with any additional aspects of planning your event, please contact Mary Suplee. The marketing department will be happy to assist.

Sufficient lead time is extremely important, especially for seminars, as there are some very stringent compliance requirements and a specific process we need to follow. First presentations are approved, then the event can be submitted and approved and finally, only when the event has been approved can any invitation materials be submitted for approval. Any topics listed on invitations must match up with the presentations submitted with the event approval. Where sponsorship is involved, it may take 6-8 weeks following the event to receive any reimbursement funds, again due to the process followed to submit requests for sponsor funds.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

For seminars, you must attach a seminar sign-in sheet to the event in SMRS following your event. Please forward the scanned list to Lauren Berardinelli so it can be attached to the event submission.

Event Request Form

Please Submit Requests at least 8 Weeks Prior to Your Event to Mary Suplee/Marketing.

Date:	Type of Event: () Seminar () Client Appreciation Event
Team or Agent(s) Hosting:	Team contact:
Date to be held: Time:	
Location of event:	
Invitees: () Clients () Prospects (only for ser	ninars)
How are invitees chosen? (Tier 1, target market, etc.):	
States where invitees reside:	
Number to be invited: Number expecte	d to attend:
How many invitees have purchased a financial product or service	in the past six months:
How man invitees are currently discussing the purchase of a finar	icial product or service:
Please Note: If any invitees have purchased or are currently discussin that the invitees would have been invited regardless of their recent o	g the purchase of financial products or services, please sign below stating r subsequent purchases.
Registered Representative Date	
COSTS	
Food and Beverage: \$ per person Facility	Rental: \$
Entertainment: \$ Describe	
For Seminars ONLY	
Title or topic:	
Speakers requested:	
Approved Presentation(s) L# (if known):	
SPONSORS	
Seeking sponsorship? () YES () NO	
Sponsors must be given the opportunity to speak to the attendees and Requests must be received in sufficient time prior to event. Documenta	their presentation must be pre-approved before the event will be approved. tion of expenses paid will be required for reimbursement.
disclose something, I may be violating Firm policy and could face	formation provided on this form. I also understand that if I fail to properly consequences from the Firm and possibly FINRA. Intential and Perceived Conflicts of Interest Chapter from The Representative
Registered Representative Date	

Please complete the invitation request form, if invitations are required.

For Internal Use Only

FOR MARKETING USE ONLY					
Submitted to SMRS by:	Submitted On:	Submission #	Approval #		

Invitation Request Form

Please Submit Requests at least 8 Weeks Prior to Your Event to Mary Suplee/Marketing.

Have you completed an Event Submission Form for this Even	nt? () yes () no If not who is submitting your event to SMRS?
Event Approval # (if available):	
Today's Date:	Date Invite's Needed by:
Team or Agents Hosting:	
() CFG-all agency-event () Private	() CFG Sponsor event
Requested by: (team contact)	
Name of event: (as will appear in invite)	
Description of event:	
Location (provide address):	
Parking Provided: () Yes () No () N/A	
Date of event:	Time:
Save the date needed: () Yes () No	
RSVP by date:	RSVP to whom:
RSVP Contact Phone#	_ E-Mail:
Total # of printed invitations needed:	
Guest speaker(s):	
Sponsor(s):	
Other persons involved:	
E-Mail Invite needed: () Yes () No	
Please send PDF draft file to:	
Special instructions:	

For Internal Use Only

$F \cap D$		VET		HCE	ONL
FUK	IVIAH	N F I	HVCT	USE	

Invite submitted to SMRS by: On: Submission # Approval #

APPENDIX B

Event Specific Success Tips

G	olf Outing
	Determine ahead of time how you will handle registration fees before the event.
	Ensure you are pairing the "right" people together to create networking opportunities.
Cli	ient Appreciation
pec	sting a client appreciation event is a great way to show your clients they are valued and appreciated. Because ople want to work with those they like and trust, a natural result from this type of interaction is new business referrals.
	Consider what message you want to convey about your business. Should this event "wow" the client or be more relaxed?
	A few examples of themes include: Wine tasting/dinner, Picnic in the park, Sports event/happy hour, Hawaiian Luau, Chocolate Tasting, Dinner cruise
Те	am Building
	Team building events can be fun and boost morale, but can also be designed to help address a work or communication problem.
	 Determine the purpose of the event: Address a team deficiency? Improve the team's communication? Boost team innovation? Help the team strengthen work relationships? Discuss and resolve a particular team conflict? Recognize your team by celebrating a team achievement? Support a favorite charity?
	 Identify the type of team building event: Celebration to recognize achievements. Workshop to enhance team's ability to resolve conflict. Planning session to improve communication and set expectations.
	Follow-up once the event is held to review outcomes. Gain group feedback regarding effectiveness.
	Determine if the event helped the team achieve the intended goal.

APPENDIX B

Event Specific Success Tips (continued)

Wi	ne T	astin	g		
					-

A w	ine tasting event is a unique way to bring clients, suspects and prospects together to learn about wine.
	Determine what type of tasting party you want to hold: You may choose to include cheese pairings or focus on one particular wine region.
	Design a tasting card: This would specify information such as type of wine, the producing vineyard, and a description of the wine. The tasting card may also include an area to "grade" each wine in the areas of appearance, aroma, flavor and cheese pairing. Each guest should have their own tasting card to record their findings.
	Choose the right menu: While a traditional wine tasting may not include a full dinner menu, it's important to provide, at minimum, heavy appetizers for the guests.
	Create an inviting environment: Consider decorating the room using white table cloths, candles and vintage bottles. It's important to keep the room well lit and festive. You may also choose to have banners or table tents displaying wine facts.
Sp	orts Box
	Be sure to review what is included with each package (ie: menu, beverage, gratuity, etc.).
	Have cash on hand.
	Bring a "going home" gift for each guest. This may include current CFG articles, pens, or autographed sports paraphernalia.

APPENDIX C

Follow Up Letters

John Smith 123 Main Street Anywhere, PA 14781

Dear Mr. Smith,

I am sorry you weren't able to attend the CFG Asset Management Investment Seminar, *Investing In Today's Uncertain Times*, held on February 23rd at the Philadelphia Union League.

James Unger, CFP, president of CFG Asset Management gave his perspectives on the current economic landscape and proposed several strategies for investing in secular bear markets. Strategies presented included focusing on income investments, approaches to structuring portfolios in this environment and investing in global, multi-asset classes using ETFs. The presentation was followed by a session that allowed the audience to pose their questions regarding investing to our panel of experts.

I would be happy to meet with you to discuss any of the topics that were discussed or to address any concerns you have or opportunities you see for your future. I will be in touch soon, however, feel free to contact me before that time at 610-xxx-xxxx or RepName@cfq.nef.com.

Several investment seminars are scheduled to be held throughout the year. I hope that you will be able to join us at a future program. I look forward to the opportunity to help you reach your financial goals.

Sincerely,

Rep Name Approved Title

P.S. CFG is hosting an information seminar on November 16, 2011 at Aronimink Golf Club on the topic of "Investing In Today's Uncertain Times." We have three knowledgeable speakers that will share their perspective on the current economic landscape. If you are interested in attending, please contact me by November X, 2011.

APPENDIX D

Event Sign In Form

Seminar Sign-In Sheet Please complete this sign-in sheet	t for recordkeeping purposes.
Seminar Title/Topic:	
Seminar Location:	Seminar Date:
Atendee Name	Atendee Signature

Atendee Name	Atendee Signature