

Revitalize your event or meeting and increase attendance by hosting it in a non-traditional venue. You can rejuvenate the same old informational sessions by selecting a unique or dynamic setting in which to train, inform, or inspire your attendees.

An enjoyable and memorable group excursion enhances any gathering and inevitably results in accolades for the planner and the event. Nothing stimulates conversation and interaction among attendees like a theme party, the ideal ice-breaker activity. And nowhere else but Livingston County will you find as many unique and creative venues ideally suited for themed gatherings.

The off-site venue and tour suggestions on the following pages are just a sampling of what Livingston County has to offer. Any one of them can be combined in a number of ways to create an outstanding special event that will long be remembered.

(You will find additional unique and non-traditional meeting venues featured in the Meeting Facilities section.)

Livingston County Convention & Visitors Bureau
123 E. Washington St., Howell, MI 48843
(517) 548-1795 (800) 686-8474 Fax: (517) 546-4115
www.lccvb.org

All information found in the Meeting Planners Guide is taken from the sources represented within and believed to be reliable, but is not guaranteed. Contact venues directly to obtain the most current data. The Livingston County Convention & Visitors Bureau is not responsible for contracts, transactions, or business arrangements that develop through use of this medium or the representative listings.

Off-Site Events

Howell Conference and Nature Center*

A Team Building Event

A day of team-building, adventure education, challenge by choice and group initiatives are all aspects of The Eagle Quest Program designed to create exciting learning opportunities and insights into the issues of risk taking, mutual support, self-confidence, leadership, and team work.

Each program is uniquely designed by trained facilitators to meet the needs and goals of your group using a sequence of increasingly challenging activities that require participants to utilize and improve important skills for a successful team. The program also specializes in guiding individuals to recognize achievable goals that provide personal challenge.

The adventure-based learning process used in the challenge program allows groups and individuals to grow and learn by doing. This process, when experienced in the outdoors, creates an ideal learning environment.

Participants are involved in problem-solving challenges designed to enhance communication, cooperation, mutual support, and trust. With the use of props, group members solve increasing difficult problems presented by trained facilitators.

A custom Eagle Quest Program is designed by using:

- Team Building Techniques.
- Adventure Education.
- Challenge by Choice.
- Group Initiatives.
- Low Ropes, consisting of a series of ropes, cables, and wooden structures.
- High Ropes, consisting of cables, platforms, beams, and ropes strung 25-30 feet off the ground.
- Climbing Tower, a 60-foot climbing tower can be used as a team activity or for recreational climbing.
- 500-foot zip line.

The Howell Conference and Nature Center offers over 270 acres of natural woods, meadows, and wetlands. There are 7 lodges (see Meeting Facilities section) that can be used for meeting space, a Global Village designed to educate participants on global issues, and the "Wild Wonders" Wildlife Park, filled with permanently injured animals native to Michigan. The Nature Center also operates wildlife rehabilitation and education programs.

Minimum numbers may apply.

For further information, call:

The Livingston County CVB at **800-686-8474**
or the Howell Nature Center at **517-546-0249**.
www.howellnaturecenter.org

Kensington Metropark*

Outdoor Adventures

What could be more fun than spending an afternoon at the park? With 4,357 acres of natural beauty Kensington Metropark offers a variety of activities for your group to enjoy.

Picnic opportunities are so rare at convention outings that your attendees will be pleasantly surprised by your creative luncheon or dinner selection. Weather permitting; your alfresco lunch or dinner will be served at a picnic table in a lovely metro park setting.

Your group is certain to enjoy a cruise on the Island Queen II. A private cruise exclusively for your group on the 45 passenger 50 foot canopy covered pontoon excursion boat will no doubt be the favorite adventure of the day. This quiet relaxing vessel will take you on a soothing tour of lovely Kent Lake, located in the heart of a scenic recreation area that abounds with wildlife.

The Farm Center is a place for discovery by touching and exploring. Walk down the farm lanes, and view the numerous farm animals, while absorbing the sights, sounds, smells, and activities. A horse drawn wagon ride will add to the fun.

The Nature Center is an educational exploration. Exhibits relating to the wildlife of the park can be viewed and touched in the Nature Center Building. Nature enthusiasts enjoy a self-guided tour of the adjacent labeled Nature Trails.

Feel like adding a little competition? Paddleboats and rowboats are available for rent so a race on the lake might just be the ticket. There is nothing like a friendly game of volleyball or badminton. Croquet anyone? Maybe those golf enthusiasts would like to try their hand at disc golf or if they simply must have the real thing, Kensington Metropark features an 18-hole golf course.

Your day can consist of team events or simply be designed to allow your attendees to enjoy the park on their own. Kensington Metropark has so much to offer that you are free to let your creativity flow when designing your event.

Minimum numbers may apply.

For further information, call:

The Livingston County CVB at **800-686-8474**
or Kensington Metropark at **800-477-3178**.
www.metroparks.com/parks/pk_kensington.php

Hell Creek Ranch and Riding Stable*

Hoedown in Hell

Attendees will talk about this event long after they return home. Picture your group cruising through a canopy of winding tree-lined country roads. The excitement builds as they repeatedly try and guess where the road will lead. Could it be to Hell and back? If so – then what would be a more appropriate dinner than a Bar-B-Que in Hell?

* Indicates venues listed in the Meeting Facility section of the guide.

The evening may include: live musical entertainment, dancing, a Mark Twain impersonator during dinner, continuous wagon rides, fortune tellers, open bar, barbeque dinner served in a barn, and a hellacious bonfire. For desert there is a trip to Screams Ice Cream & Halloween store for their sinfully delicious signature sundaes. Imagine their surprise as they dip the unique and scary name toppings from an authentic coffin. Screams is also a year-round Halloween store where your group will see one of a kind masks and everything imaginable in Halloween decorations.

For daytime events horseback riding and canoeing are available at the Hell Creek Ranch.

Minimum numbers may apply.

For further information, call:

The Livingston County CVB Hotline to Hell, **800-686-8474**.

The Livingston Centre Historical Village*

A Step Back in History

Experience the feeling of sitting in an 1882 schoolhouse learning reading, writing and arithmetic. Envision waiting at the train depot for out of town family members that are coming for a visit. Imaging what it's like cooking dinner on an old wood burning stove or feel the warmth of a cozy fireplace. How about an old fashion shave and a haircut. Was it really two bits?

Your attendees will experience what life was like in the 1800 and 1900s while visiting the historic buildings in The Livingston Centre; Kirkland House, Hartland Barbershop, Green Church, 1872 Pere Marquette Depot, Coughran School House, Clinton Shoe Repair & Harness Shop, and Fowlerville Village Farm. The Centre is located on the Fowlerville Fair grounds. These vast grounds offer a variety of buildings, gazebos, grandstand, and open areas which can be used to create a unique venue for your event.

The afternoon or evening can include:

- Guides in period dress.
- Old time musical entertainment.
- Buffet lunch or dinner.
- Open bar.
- Old fashion games.
- Demonstrations.
- A cider press.
- Horse & buggy rides.

These are just some of the many options available to make your visit to The Livingston Centre Historical Village a memorable experience.

Minimum numbers may apply.

For further information, call:

The Livingston County CVB at **800-686-8474**

or Fowlerville Fair Grounds at **517-223-8186**.

www.fowlerville-fair.com

Evening Entertainment Options

Dinner Theater

Picture a live performance by Parlour Theater Productions exclusively for your group. After a scrumptious dinner buffet, your group is treated to a live performance by PTP's traveling theater troupe. Your guests can choose from "Driving Miss Daisy", "Steel Magnolias", or the female version of the "Odd Couple". After the performance, your group will have the opportunity to mingle with the friendly cast members. (Performances available evenings & weekends only.)

Live Performance at Howell's Historic All Saints Angelical Chapel*

A private performance solely for your attendees awaits you at this lovely historical downtown chapel built in 1880. You can select from a variety of performers and entertainment. Your group may adore sing-a-longs, or prefer a private concert, or some form of themed entertainment like a holiday special. Your performance comes complete with a warm personal greeting and historic presentation about this cozy chapel. Special arrangements can be made for a dessert and coffee reception or a dine-around can be arranged with Historic Downtown Howell restaurants.

Dinner Theater – Genitti's Hole-In-The Wall, Northville

You have a choice of several seasonal interactive performances. The historic theater is conveniently located adjacent to Genitti's restaurant where your attendees will enjoy a sumptuous seven-course family style Italian dinner. Groups always enjoy interacting with their evening host in light-hearted exchanges of banter and are pleasantly surprised when the host occasionally bursts into song. After dinner it's on to the theater for a delightful play.

Minimum numbers may apply.

For further information, call:

The Livingston County CVB at **800-686-8474**.

www.allsaintsangelicalchapel.com

www.genittis.com

* Indicates venues listed in the Meeting Facility section of the guide.

Off-Site Tours

To Hell and Back

Lunch at the Lakes Grille

Voyage of the damned is the theme for your sinfully delicious lunch at the Lakes Grille. Your guests will enjoy a hearty meal including soup or salad, soft beverage, a choice of three hot entrees. If you eat too much you can always say *"The devil made me do it"*.

Screams Ice Cream From Hell & Halloween*

Cool down your visit to Hell by enjoying a tempting selection of sundaes at Screams Ice Cream. Weather permitting; your tasty treat can be served near Hell's dam. The tree lined winding curves and scenic drive make this trip ideal for fall color tours. The picturesque drive will make your group wonder whether they are on the way to Hell or paradise. (Outdoor seating only.)

Guided Tour of Hell

Journey to the one and only town in the United States named Hell. An official Hell personality will conduct a spirited, lighthearted, guided tour of Hell. You can expect to see a dam (yes, there is a dam in Hell), but you may be surprised by the beautiful scenery. Following the tour, guests may send a post card from Hell at the official US Postal Station, or pause for a photo opportunity at the unique welcome signs of Hell. Beware of the presence of demonic monsters!

Minimum numbers may apply.

For further information, call:

The Livingston County CVB Hotline to Hell **800-686-8474**.
www.hell2u.com

A Little Bit of Howell Shopping & History

Tanger Outlet Center

Tanger Outlet Center is Michigan's newest *Factory Outlet Center*. Over 80 shops owned and operated by nationally recognized manufacturers offer deep discounts of between 25% and 70% off retail prices. Each group is greeted upon arrival, and tour patrons receive a brochure and coupon savings guide.

Historic Tour and Shopping in Downtown Howell

The perfect way to showcase any community is to begin with a tour of a historic district. Attendees will learn about early life in Howell, and see some splendid examples of turn of the century architecture. Included on the tour is a visit to the Historic Howell Train Depot to view some artifacts and see the on-going restoration.

Shopping in historic downtown is a unique experience. Your attendees will be amazed at the variety of retail options. Antiques, hardware, clothing, gifts, and specialty shops are just a few of the downtown merchant offerings.

Lunch Options

Tanger Outlet Center Food Pavilion

After a busy morning of shopping, it is great to relax and unwind while making your selection from five different eateries. Group luncheon vouchers may be purchased in advance from the Tanger Outlet Center.

The Blue Willow Tea Room

For smaller groups or for larger groups that are willing to split, the Blue Willow Tea Room is a delectable delight for your attendees. They will feel like they stepped back in time as they enjoy the nostalgic elegance of days gone by while enjoying a light lunch or simply attending a tea party. A fashion show or lecture on a variety of subjects can be added to enhance the experience.

Cleary's Pub*

They say if you want to know what life is like in any town, go where the locals hang out. A favorite eatery of residents and visitors alike is Cleary's Pub. This family owned restaurant is located in a historic building just steps away from the shops your attendees will be visiting.

Minimum numbers may apply.

For further information, call:

The Livingston County CVB at **800-686-8474**.

www.tangeroutlet.com

www.downtownhowell.org

Brighton Your Day

Great Harvest Bread Company

What better way to begin your day than by inhaling the delicious aroma of freshly baked bread. This stop is a real feast for the olfactory senses. Your attendees will be treated to a taste of freshly baked bread, and will be able to chat with the bakers and learn the secrets of delicious treats. Tours given on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday only.

Mill Pond Strolling and Shopping

One of the best features of downtown Brighton is the Mill Pond area. Your attendees won't know what to do or view first. Their choices include: watching children playing or exploring the imagination station playground, a leisurely stroll on the "tridge" (three tiered bridge crisscrossing the pond), feeding the local ducks, geese, and swans, or visiting the many shops and boutiques adjacent to the lovely Mill Pond area.

Dinner at one of Livingston County's Premier Golf Clubs

After a fun-filled day of sight-seeing and shopping, your entire group will welcome the opportunity to kick back and relax. Take in the tranquil and pristine scenery of one of the beautiful golf courses in Livingston County, all while enjoying a delicious dinner. This option works well when combined with a golf tournament and an afternoon activity for the non-golfers.

Minimum numbers may apply.

For further information, call:

The Livingston County CVB at **800-686-8474**.

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Fowlerville's Historic Small Town Charm

Historic Village Chapel Concert*

The elegant, 105 year old Village Chapel houses a magnificent 900-pipe Wurlitzer organ. It is the only theater organ in the county and one of the largest and most spectacular theater organs in the state. Johnny Carson once sat down to tickle the ivories of this very organ. Attendees adore the tour of this beautiful facility and can't help but reminisce during the fantastic organ concert.

Historic Livingston Centre*

It is always refreshing to visit a community that values its heritage. Fowlerville has gone one step further by gathering a collection of historic buildings into one location at the fairgrounds. Attendees visit a one-room schoolhouse, barbershop, cobbler's shop, farmhouse, barn, depot, and a lovely turn of the century church. Follow the tour with a snack and beverage reception or lunch.

Lunch at Lucky's

By selling more winning lotto tickets than any other establishment in the county, Lucky's Pub has certainly earned its name. Attendees feast on a bountiful buffet that is sure to please the hungriest of travelers.

Lumpy & Goomers

Conclude your visit to Fowlerville with a tasty treat at Lumpy & Goomers, and you'll be a big hit with your group. Attendees may choose from vanilla, chocolate, or vanilla/chocolate swirl soft sculpted ice cream in a cone.

Minimum numbers may apply.

For further information call:

The Livingston County CVB at **800-686-8474**.

www.fowlerville-fair.com

www.historicvillagechapel.com

Heavenly Scent Herb Farm

A Little Bit of Heaven

Surround your attendees with beautiful bright colors and stunning fragrances as they stroll through three themed gardens. Relax in the faerie garden next to the mushroom tree while you enjoy lavender lemonade. The Heavenly Scent Herb Farm is a unique and delightful place to visit.

Imagine sitting outside in the garden and enjoying the tranquil atmosphere. Visit the shop, housed in a 1910 barn painted to look like three European store fronts, which offers a variety of home décor items, candles, cement statuary, body care products, culinary spices, and much more. Grow memories by selecting from the many specialty herbs, perennials, scented geraniums, topiaries, and trellising plants in the greenhouse.

Lunch, soft music and workshops can all be arranged to make this a memorable afternoon for your group. Birds and butterflies visit daily...Your group should too!

Minimum numbers may apply.

For further information call:

The Livingston County CVB at **800-686-8474**

or The Heavenly Scent Herb Farm at **810-629-9208**.

www.heavenlyscenherbfarm.com

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