



2011 INTERNATIONAL HOUSEKEEPING WEEK

CELEBRATE • SEPTEMBER 11–17



HOUSEKEEPING WEEK 101

101 IDEAS TO MAKE YOUR CELEBRATION SHINE. Over the years, hotels across Hilton Worldwide have been sharing Housekeeping Week best practices with us. This year, we've compiled a list of our favorites. From low-cost party ideas to skill-building contests to SALT incentives, these ideas help us express our gratitude to those team members who keep our rooms sparkling — and our guests smiling.

CATEGORY 1: SKILL-BUILDING

1 INSPECTION COUNTDOWN

Hold a surprise inspection with your Housekeeping team. Lay aside 10 one-dollar bills for each team member. For every item not up to standards, deduct \$1. If they finish the inspection with all 10 bills, give them another 10!

2 MONOPOLY MONEY

During Housekeeping Week, hide some fake dollars in rooms prior to being cleaned. Pick areas that may be overlooked. At the end of the week, Housekeepers can trade the dollars in for prizes. For a fun twist, hold an auction and have Housekeepers bid on prizes with their dollars. You can take the dollars from a board game, such as Monopoly, or create your own on the computer and print them en masse.

3 BRAND STANDARD DETECTIVES

Prepare a room so that it has a variety of items that are not up to standards. Examples: burnt-out bulb, no batteries in the remote, not enough coffee packs, etc. Give each Housekeeper a set time to see

how many issues they can spot. Or divide them into teams. Have a prize for whomever finds the most issues, or for whomever finds all of them the fastest.

4 THE PRICE IS RIGHT

Have fun while teaching how much things cost! Gather a variety of Housekeeping amenities (soap, toilet paper, coffee packs, towels, etc.). Ask contestants to write down the monthly or annual cost to the hotel for each item, along with a grand total. Then one by one, reveal the prices, adding things up as you go. Whoever is closest to the grand total wins! For added fun, invite other departments to play along.

5 INSPECTION POKER

Get a deck of playing cards. During the week, inspect a total of five rooms for each Housekeeper. Each room that passes inspection "earns" a card. At the end of the week, whoever has the best poker hand wins a prize! **Variation:** Inspect one room per Housekeeper and offer three to five cards, based on the results.

6 ARTISTIC TOWEL FOLDING

Learn an amazing skill and WOW guests! Hold a towel origami contest, like Hilton Hurghada Plaza hotel, Egypt. Their team artistically folds towels into beautiful animals. Each work of art is proudly displayed for the hotel team and guests. For easy instructions, do an Internet search for the words "Towel Origami." [Read more online.](#)



7 FAMILY FEUD

Who knows the brand standards the best? Embassy Suites Cincinnati – Northeast (Blue Ash), OH, hosts a "Family Feud" game, using brand standard items as questions. The team who rings the bell first gets to answer the question to win a point. At the end of the contest, the team with the most points wins!

8 QUICK RECOGNITION!

Celebrate Housekeeping Week in 15 minutes or less! Hilton Prague hotel, Czech Republic, recently recognized their Laundry team with a variety of creative events, all of which took 15 minutes or less. Examples included an ironing competition (the team who has the most pieces ironed wins), and a competition to find and repair missing shirt buttons and darn socks with holes. The week's worth of competitions took less than one hour. [Read more online.](#)

9 BED-MAKING COMPETITION

Who can make a bed the fastest at your hotel? See who can make two beds to standard in the shortest amount of time. Or, if you have the space, put three or four beds in a meeting room, gather the

entire team, and see who can strip and make them the fastest. Grab a stopwatch and have a prize for the Fastest Bed Maker.

10 WORD JUMBLE

Hampton Inn Lexington – Historic District, VA, has a word jumble contest using words related to Housekeeping. Each team member has 15 minutes to complete the contest, and the winner receives a prize! [Read more online.](#)

11 SALT SCORE CONTEST

Housekeeping Week is a perfect time to launch a larger initiative. Hampton Inn Leighton, PA, uses the week to kick off a fun 90-day contest: If cleanliness scores hit 90, the team wins a luncheon. If they hit 95, they get a luncheon, and the hotel managers have to clean 10 rooms for them! Try a similar contest of your own to boost performance, standards, or attendance!

12 HOUSEKEEPING TRIVIA

A fun way to test—and improve—your team's knowledge! Prepare 15 or 20 trivia questions. Questions can cover everything from Housekeeping standards to hotel trivia. See who answers the most questions correctly. For added fun, invite other departments to participate!

13 PRIZES FOR EVERYONE

Hilton London Metropole hotel, UK, has a quiz for the Housekeeping supervisors during morning huddle, and a prize is given to the winner. For the Room Attendants, a number is hidden on every trolley, which they have to find and bring to the Housekeeping office to find out what prize they have won.

14 GOOD AS GOLD

Hilton Houston NASA Clear Lake, TX, bought a brand-new Housekeeper's cart, vacuum, and other equipment and painted them gold. The Executive Housekeeper kept a log of all the 9's and 10's received on the Guest Service Scores for Cleanliness of Room and Bathroom. Whoever received the most high scores got to use the gilded equipment for the following month.

CATEGORY 2: HEARTFELT THANKS!

15 THANKS A LOTTO!

A little thanks and a chance to win big! It's like a Catch Me® card with a twist. This week, if you catch someone doing something outstanding, write a thank you card and insert a Lotto ticket inside.

Variation: If your state doesn't have a lottery, create your own lottery. Write down a number on the thank you card, and select the winning numbers at a team huddle.

16 HOUSEKEEPING CAR WASH

They keep the hotel sparkling. Let's keep their cars sparkling. Since Housekeepers clean up after others, Hampton Inn Indianapolis – NE/ Castleton, IN, cleans for them: The hotel organizes a car wash. Housekeepers relax with refreshments, while managers wash their cars.

17 TEAM PEDICURES

Housekeepers spend lots of time on their feet. During International Housekeeping Week, Hampton Inn Tooele, UT, treats the Housekeeping team to a pedicure, the type that includes a foot and lower leg massage.

Variation: Take the team to lunch and a pedicure.



18 THANKS FROM ENGINEERING

Get those vacuums in tip-top shape! The Engineering team at DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Tucson at Reid Park, AZ, showed how much they appreciated their Housekeepers by giving all the vacuums and carts a good cleaning and tune-up, so they worked as good as new. They also wrote personal thank you notes to the team.

19 POT LUCK COOK-OFF

Invite all departments to bring a dish for a big potluck lunch honoring your Housekeeping team. Let your Housekeepers judge the dishes and have prizes ready for the winners. If you're a larger hotel, invite a different department to sponsor lunch each day of the week.

20 A WORLD OF THANKS

Say thanks with luncheons from around the world! Give Housekeeping "A World of Thanks" by planning five days of meals with an international theme. For example: Mexico (build-your-own tacos), Italy (pizza or spaghetti), USA (burgers & hotdogs), France (croissant breakfast sandwich), and so on.

21 FREE RECOGNITION

The materials located online at www.Hilton-Recognition.com/Housekeeping include a variety of high-impact tools that are easy to use and cost next to nothing. You'll find branded certificates, thank you cards, and much more. All content is customizable, including language.

22 RECOGNIZE PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

Hilton Minneapolis, MN, uses Housekeeping Week as a time to recognize team members who had perfect attendance for the year—and surprises them with a prize or a free day off! You can also extend this recognition to other achievements, like service anniversaries, cleanliness scores, and more.

23 THE AMAZING ROOM COUNT!

Homewood Suites by Hilton St. Louis Riverport – Airport West, MO, takes pictures of each team member and tallies the number of rooms they clean per year. The hotel takes the average number of rooms cleaned per day and multiplies by estimated number of days worked. They write this figure down and post it next to each Housekeeper's picture in a team area, along with a note of appreciation!

24 SPA TIME

Hampton Inn & Suites Pigeon Forge On The Parkway, TN, plans a spa sampler and treats Housekeepers to onsite treatments such as heated neck wraps, cooling eye treatments, hand and foot treatments, exfoliating treatments, and tips on relaxation techniques.

25 A FAMILY AFFAIR

Invite the whole family for a team get-together! Homewood Suites by Hilton Fargo, ND, holds a Sunday afternoon cookout for the Housekeeping team and invites their families to attend. Games are held, prizes are given, and everyone enjoys meeting each other's families! Invite other departments and ask them to bring food and refreshments.

26 PHOTO THANK YOU CARDS

Create a lasting memento. Open a Shutterfly or Tiny Prints account online. This will enable you to order custom thank you cards, complete with a group photo of your team. For as little as \$1 to \$2 per card, it's a fun, affordable, and memorable way to recognize your Housekeeping team! Find cards online at Shutterfly.com or at Tinyprints.com.

27 THE CART OF HONOR

Create a special cart for a Housekeeping star stocked with brand-new equipment. Whoever has the highest inspection scores gets the cart for the week. Decorate the cart with crepe paper, ribbons, balloons, paint, and poster board, and let the cart change hands each week as new stars emerge. The team can help with the decorating. You can pass this on to different team members throughout the year!

28 SAY IT WITH FLOWERS!

Embassy Suites Seattle – Bellevue, WA, loads up Housekeeping carts with potted plants that the Housekeepers can take home. For added impact, they attach a personalized note of thanks to each plant! **Variation:** Give each Housekeeper a bouquet of flowers and chocolates.

29 BRING RECOGNITION HOME
Embassy Suites Dallas – Love Field, TX, mails a handwritten thank you card from the GM to each team member's home, so each Housekeeper's family will know how much they are appreciated.

30 GOT SOAP?
They pamper your rooms. Now let your Housekeeping team pamper themselves. Give them a basket of nice toiletries during a team lunch, along with a personal note of thanks.

31 ADOPT A HOUSEKEEPER
Each department selects one Housekeeper to spoil! Divide your Housekeepers into groups. Ask each department to adopt a different group and prepare a treat basket for each team member in that group. Personalize the baskets and include thank you notes from everyone in the departments. Distribute them during Housekeeping Week. **Variation:** Let the Housekeepers judge the best-decorated basket.

32 LUNCH WITH THE GM
Get to know your Housekeeping team at lunch! This week, divide the Housekeeping team into small groups. Each day, take a group to lunch with the GM, or bring lunch in. Be sure to include the Executive Housekeeper! The meal can be as simple as an order from a local sub shop or burger joint. The important thing is to take time to get to know your team and say "Thanks" to them.

33 CREATE A BRAG BOARD!
Let the whole hotel get to know your team. During International Housekeeping Week, dedicate space on a team area wall to celebrate your Housekeeping team. Each day, select a group of Housekeepers and post their pictures and names.

Include notable (and appropriate) information about each team member. For example, "Sue grew up in Hawaii," or "Helen speaks three languages," or "John has three children in college." Include a note of appreciation for each team member. Change the notes each day, or add additional notes.

34 FIND A SPONSOR
Get different departments to sponsor Housekeeping Week. That's one department per day. Ask each department to pick a day and plan a brief activity for that day. This can include a game or contest, a meal, or both! Be creative and have fun. Have each team write a note of praise to the Housekeeping team for their efforts.

35 BAKE-OFF TIME
Nothing says thank you like food. Take time to bake goodies for the Housekeeping team. At Hilton Garden Inn San Jose/Milpitas, CA, different managers personally bake cakes and other treats for their Housekeeping team members! This can be done at home or at work, if you have a kitchen.

Present at lunch or during a break. **Variation:** Have managers pick up the treats from a bakery.



36 SALSA AND SUNDAES
At the Hilton Newark Airport, NJ, the Executive Committee and Food & Beverage team present the Housekeeping team with a "Fiesta" celebration. It features an outstanding array of local and international foods and beverages, and is topped off by a soda fountain ice cream sundae bar.

37 RELAX WITH A MASSAGE

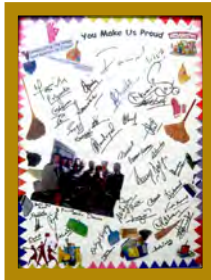
Homewood Suites by Hilton Fargo, ND, has a masseuse come to the hotel to give chair massages to the Housekeeping team and other team members. Everybody loves it!

38 GOODY BAGS

DoubleTree Guest Suites by Hilton Hotel Atlanta – Galleria, GA, presents each Housekeeping team member with a red tote bag filled with a water jug, note pad, keychain, candle, manicuring kit, coffee mug, and other small gifts.

39 HIGH TEA

For their grand finale, the Housekeeping team at Hilton Garden Inn New Delhi/Saket, India, joins the managers for high tea is presented with a special trophy, individual recognition certificates, and a poster signed by all of their team members. [Read more online.](#)



40 SERVED BY THE GM

In addition to fun daily activities throughout the week at Hilton Garden Inn Austin Downtown, TX, the Housekeeping team is always treated to a special lunch where the General Manager dons an apron and hat and personally mans the carving station.

41 CULTURAL LUNCHES AND GIFTS

Hilton Newark Penn Station, NJ, has special themed lunches each day for its Housekeeping team, with food representing different parts of the world such as South America, the Caribbean, Asia, and

Europe. They also distribute gift cards, t-shirts, water bottles, and gift baskets to team members during each lunch. [Read more online.](#)

42 A GREAT WAY TO START THE DAY

Embassy Suites St. Louis – St. Charles/Hotel & Spa, MO, recognizes its Housekeeping team with a pizza buffet, an ice cream party, and a delicious cooked-to-order breakfast in the dining area. A good, hot breakfast gets everyone off to a great start for the day!

43 SECRET ADMIRERS

Put all of your Housekeepers' names in a hat and have each manager (or team members from other departments) draw a name. These people will act as "secret admirers" and leave small gifts and anonymous notes of appreciation for their chosen Housekeepers each day. On the last day of the week, reveal the identities by having each secret admirer personally hand each Housekeeper their gift.

44 THE ICE CREAM TRUCK!

During the week, contact a local ice cream caterer and ask them to bring ice cream at a time convenient to your team (i.e., lunch hour or at the end of the shift). Let everyone choose a free ice cream treat. To find a truck, go to www.partypop.com and type "ice cream truck" in the keyword search.

Variation: If you can't bring in a truck, bring in your own ice cream treats.



45 UNEXPECTED CERTIFICATES Use online [Customizable Certificates](#) to recognize some expected categories, like Longest Service and Best Attendance. But also recognize some unexpected things like Most Contagious Laugh, Brightest Smile, and other surprises. All content is customizable, including language.

46 SHOW YOUR SPIRIT! Use Housekeeping Week as an occasion to nominate one or more star Housekeepers for the Spirit Award. It's easy and free, and makes a lasting impact on your nominee! All nominees receive recognition—and those who win will get brand-wide recognition, \$350, and more! Go to www.Hilton-Recognition.com/Nominations for more information.

47 THE HAPPY CART Stock a Housekeeping cart full of treats. Include candy, chips, beverages, flowers, and small gifts. Have managers push the cart all over the hotel, offering treats and gifts to team members! You can use this time to personally thank each team member for their efforts. Then leave the cart in a break room for everyone to enjoy throughout the day.



48 CUSTOM TREATS Personalize your appreciation with customizable recognition materials! Using the materials located at www.Hilton-Recognition.com/Housekeeping, you can easily create custom candy bar wrappers and water bottle labels. Simply customize your message, output, trim, and wrap around an existing water bottle or candy bar. All content is customizable, including language.

49 JUST SAY "THANKS!" Take time to say "Thank You" to your team. DoubleTree Guest Suites by Hilton Hotel Seattle Airport/Southcenter, WA, reminds us that "All of the different offerings are great, but nothing replaces a simple 'Thank You' for appreciation." Take some time this week to offer a few meaningful words of appreciation to each Housekeeping team member.

50 WEAR YOUR HOUSEKEEPING PRIDE! DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Charlottesville, VA, had a reception to end the week. Each Housekeeping team member received a certificate of appreciation, a bag full of candy, and a T-shirt that reads "Clean Team."

51 PICK YOUR PRIZE Hilton Anchorage, AK, gives each Housekeeper a gift certificate good for one of the following prizes: a one-week pass to the fitness center, one meal from room service for their lunch break, a dozen freshly baked cookies boxed to take home, or a 12" round cake for a special event.

52 GET THE WORD OUT Embassy Suites Milpitas – Silicon Valley, CA, believes that all hotels should prepare an agenda ahead of time. Two weeks before Housekeeping Week begins, they put big signs all over the break room so other departments can start planning ways to show their appreciation.

CATEGORY 3: OUTRAGEOUS FUN

53 MOVIE DAY

Treat your team like stars with movies and popcorn! Hampton Inn & Suites Madison – West, WI, picks one day during the week and brings in ALL Housekeepers, so each person has only ten rooms to clean. After finishing early, they gather in a conference room for a movie, popcorn, pizza, and a whole lot of recognition. **Variation:** Bring slippers for the Housekeepers to wear.

54 HOUSEKEEPING OLYMPIAD

Housekeeping Week is a great opportunity to get to know your Housekeeping team. Use this time to set up fun competitions and events, pitting team members against each other or managers, or other departments against the Housekeeping team. Homewood Suites by Hilton Madison West, WI, holds Housekeeping cart races, plays “shoot the toilet paper through the toilet seat basketball,” vacuums blindfolded, and has bed-making contests! [Read more online.](#)



55 MUMMY-WRAPPING CONTEST

Form teams of two or three people. Pick one team member (or supervisor) in each group to be the mummy. With that person standing still, wrap him or her with toilet paper. Add your own personal touches, like a hat or sunglasses. Have a prize for the best (and worst) mummy. Appoint a judge or have spectators vote. [Read more online.](#)



56 HOMEMADE SALSA CONTEST

Host a contest to see who can make the best homemade salsa. The winner takes bragging rights, and perhaps a prize like a gift card for a local restaurant or retailer. The real fun comes when the managers judging the contest **MUST** sample all entries—including the good, the bad, and the waaaaay too hot! **Variation:** Select a different food to judge.

57 TOWER OF SOAP

See which Housekeeper can construct the tallest tower of soap in two minutes! Have team members compete at the same time, stacking bars of soap on top of each other. Watch them topple. When time's called, everyone stops building. The tallest tower left standing wins!



58 BLIND SHEET FOLDING

Form teams and see which team can fold a standard bed sheet and stuff two pillows into their cases the quickest—while blindfolded! Give each team one or two minutes to complete the task. Whoever has the best time, or can fold the most sheets, wins!

59 FIESTA FRIDAY

Celebrate the end of the week with a bang! DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Austin, TX, wraps up the week with a fiesta lunch on Friday, featuring homemade salsas from all over the world, including Mexico, South America, Burma, and India. Managers dress in costumes and a piñata is filled with candy, gift cards, a coupon for a day off with pay, and certificates for room service lunches for two.

Variation: Have team members pull gifts from a hat or bowl. [Read more online.](#)

60 BED RACES

Host an exciting outdoor event that can generate excitement! Divide into teams, or challenge nearby hotels to a Bed Race. Block off part of the parking lot, and define the start and finish lines. Put beds on large rolling carts with a manager in each bed. Have Housekeepers push the bed and race for prizes. Bring in lunch for the teams. Idea courtesy of Embassy Suites Winston – Salem, NC. **Variation:** Use Housekeeping carts instead, and set up a simple obstacle course.



61 BABY PICTURE MYSTERY

Can you identify your teammates by their baby pictures? Ask Housekeepers to bring in baby pictures of themselves. Post the photos and invite the department, or the entire hotel, to guess which photo belongs to which Housekeeper. To throw people off, include a baby picture of your GM or other supervisors! Have a prize for the person with the most correct answers.

62 CART-DECORATING CONTEST

Who can decorate the wildest cart? DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel San Jose, CA, holds a cart-decorating contest, letting each Housekeeper decorate his/her cart at the beginning of the week. Housekeepers use balloons, crepe paper, and other non-permanent art supplies. Let the Housekeeping team, or the entire hotel, judge the carts at the end of the week. Have a prize on hand for the Best or Funniest carts! **Variation:** Decorate vacuums instead.



63 SUPERSIZE YOUR RECOGNITION

DoubleTree Guest Suites by Hilton Hotel Phoenix, AZ, surprised their entire Housekeeping team with a quick trip to a local convenience store for slushies and candy bars. It's a simple, low-cost way to show your appreciation and get to know your team.

Variation: Go to your hotel gift shop for goodies.

64 PRO/AM TOURNAMENT

Housekeepers team up with other departments for fun! Form teams of two: one Housekeeper and one team member from a different department. Then have the Pro/Am teams compete to see who can perform tasks the fastest: folding sheets properly, correctly stripping and making a bed, etc. Or have the team work together to clean an entire room.

65 DAILY "BEST OF" CONTESTS

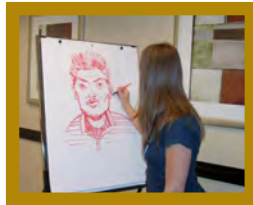
Focus on a different area each day. Hampton Inn & Suites Nashville/Franklin (Cool Springs), TN, holds a "Best of" contest each day in different areas, including Tidiest Uniform, Neatest Housekeeping Cart, Friendliest Smile, and Cleanest Corridor. It's a fun and effective way to focus on specific areas and make improvements quickly!

66 BOWLING FOR PRIZES

Score big with this fun way to build team spirit. After a celebratory luncheon, "strike" up some recognition and play Bowling for Prizes, with empty water bottles used for pins and rolls of toilet paper for the balls. The Housekeeper with the highest score wins!

67 CARICATURE ARTIST

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Philadelphia – Center City, PA, hires a caricature artist for the day. The cost is nominal. A fun portrait is made of each Housekeeper. After putting the portraits on display during the week, they are given to the Housekeepers. To find an artist in your area, go to www.partypop.com and type “caricatures” in the keyword search.



68 HOUSEKEEPER OF THE DAY

Spotlight a different Housekeeper each day of the week. DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Atlanta/Roswell, GA, recognizes team members who have exceptionally high cleanliness scores by naming a day in their honor. Use the [branded “Featured team member” poster](#) to spotlight a different Housekeeper, or group of Housekeepers, each day. Post them in a team area for all team members to see.

69 HAVE THE MANAGER PITCH IN

At Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront, FL, each room attendant draws a manager’s business card from a bowl, and that manager cleans one or more rooms for them while they watch or relax. **Variation:** Have that manager work as the Housekeeper’s assistant for one hour.

70 SAY IT WITH FOOD!

Whether it’s simply morning bagels, a nice full lunch, or an afternoon snack, food is a great way to recognize your team and boost morale. Ask various departments or vendors to chip in to host different meals during the week. **Variation:** Get your managers to bring in or bake treats for the team.

71 CUPCAKE-EATING CONTEST

Homewood Suites by Hilton Dallas/Addison, TX, holds a Cupcake-Eating Contest, with a prize to the volunteer who can eat cupcakes the fastest. One stipulation: They can’t use their hands! The GM says it’s about the most fun their team has ever had. For added fun, include managers.



72 WASTEBASKET BALL

Get an assortment of 10 objects of various sizes and shapes—paper wads, empty paper coffee cups, empty water bottles, shampoo bottles, etc. Then see who can throw the most objects into a wastebasket from a distance.

73 DAILY THEMES

Hilton Garden Inn Gettysburg, PA, has a different theme for each day of Housekeeping Week. One day is “Dress Up Your Carts,” and all of the Housekeepers have a blast decorating their carts however they please.

74 VOLLEYBALL AND NIGHT FISHING

Conrad Maldives Rangali Island wraps up its week of festivities with the distribution of prizes and certificates, followed by a volleyball match and night fishing with the Management team.

75 PIE A MANAGER

At Homewood Suites by Hilton Sacramento Airport – Natomas, CA, the managers put on ponchos and goggles, while the Sales Department prepped pie pans full of whipped cream and chocolate syrup. The end result was a load of laughs and cheers as each Housekeeper got a free shot at hitting the GM, AGM, or Executive Housekeeper in the face with a pie!

[Read more online.](#)



76 MAKE A GATOR

Homewood Suites by Hilton Gainesville, FL, has a contest for its Housekeeping team that challenges them to make a Gator out of Play-Doh® and other props. At the end of the week, everyone votes on the best Gator, and the winner gets to proudly display their creation. [Read more online.](#)

77 VIDEO GAME BREAK

Hilton Orlando, FL, has a Wii game break! Each floor is assigned a 30-minute window to come down from their floor to play Wii. In addition, “Sweet Treat Bags” are distributed to each team member at the end of his/her shift.

78 REPRESENT YOUR CULTURE

Hilton Antwerp hotel, Belgium, holds an [Olympic-style competition](#) involving their Housekeeping team, and celebrates the international diversity of their team by having team members dress in clothing specific to their home countries.

79 HIDE AND SEEK

At Hampton Inn Lexington – Historic District, VA, 50 photos of Shrek—their Housekeeping mascot—were taped all over the laundry and break rooms.

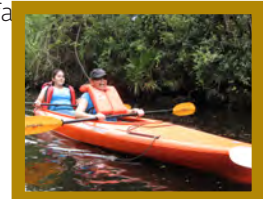
At break time, the team had to see how many they could find. The winner won a gift bag that included all three Shrek DVDs, along with microwave popcorn and Sno-Caps®.

80 INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK

Embassy Suites Cincinnati – Northeast (Blue Ash), OH, concludes the week with “The Taste of Embassy,” a potluck lunch where each Housekeeper brings in a dish that they enjoy cooking and eating. The lunch is a huge hit and represents many different countries.

81 KAYAKING EXCURSION

DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel Naples, FL, embarked on a fun afternoon of kayaking with its Housekeeping team. It was a fun bonding for the team. It was also hilarious to watch some of the first time kayakers zigzag down the river!



82 TALENT SHOW

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Richmond Downtown, VA, had a Housekeeping Week talent show called “DoubleTree’s Got Talent.” The show started off with the managers dancing the Macarena—led by their General Manager, who was dressed in a giant cookie suit. [Read more online.](#)



83 FONDUE FEST
September 13th is International Chocolate Day. Try celebrating with a chocolate fondue party for your Housekeeping team. You could dip things like marshmallows, strawberries, pretzels, pound cake, chocolate chip cookies, and donut holes—just to name a few!

84 "NON-HOUSEKEEPING" TRIATHLON
This triathlon has nothing to do with typical Housekeeping tasks—your team spends enough time cleaning! Divide your Housekeepers into teams. Each team will race to complete the following tasks as quickly as possible:

- Completely unravel a roll of toilet paper
- Catch small candies in their mouths
- Legibly write the entire alphabet on an old bed sheet—with a bottle of chocolate syrup!

85 CREATIVE CONSTRUCTION
Embassy Suites Orlando – Downtown, FL, divides their Housekeeping department into teams and gives them a tray containing a box of Froot Loops®, 12 straws, scissors, tape, glue, and three pieces of construction paper. The challenge? They have 30 minutes to build something—anything—using all the materials.

86 SING-ALONG
At DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel San Francisco Airport, CA, one of the Lobby Attendants brought his guitar and everyone had a sing-along. Housekeeping team members were also given gifts and raffle prizes.

87 LET'S MAKE A DEAL®
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Washington, DC, plays "Let's Make a Deal." Housekeepers are asked to bring in various items that can then be traded for mystery boxes containing both valuable and goofy prizes. After a Housekeeper completes the trade, the prize is revealed.

88 FINDING NEMO
Hilton Suites Brentwood, TN, has a "Finding Nemo" contest where Nemo dolls are hidden in the public areas of the hotel. The Housekeeping team searches for them, and each Nemo that is returned can be redeemed for a gift certificate. The managers have just as much fun hiding them as the Housekeeping team has finding them!

89 LET LOOSE
After a week of fun, games, and food at Hilton Amsterdam, Netherlands, the final evening includes karaoke and dancing. Everyone has a blast.



90 ROYAL TREAT
Have the hotel chef bake a "King Cake," like the ones used to celebrate Mardi Gras, but decorate it with a Housekeeping theme. The Housekeeper who finds the baby in their piece of cake wins a prize.

91 SUPERMARKET SWEEP
During Housekeeping Week, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Dallas Near the Galleria, TX, hosts a "Supermarket Sweep." The top performing Room Attendants from the past 12 months (based on cleanliness scores) are awarded a 60-second

shopping spree. The whole Housekeeping team goes out to the neighborhood grocery store, and everyone cheers on the winning participants. The winners usually take home about \$200 worth of groceries! Then the Management team takes everyone out to lunch at a nearby restaurant.

92 FORTUNE TELLER DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Philadelphia Center City, PA, had a tarot card reader come to the hotel. They were amazed at how many Housekeeping team members wanted their fortunes told—and at how funny some of those fortunes were.

93 SPRAY BOTTLE SHOOTING Arm your Housekeepers with cleaning bottles filled with water. Have them line up and try to hit various targets. For each target hit, the Housekeepers are rewarded with a small prize.
Hint: Cover each target with a piece of colored construction paper, so it will be easier to see where the water hit.

94 BROOMBALL Clear out your break room and mark a narrow goal at one end. Divide the Housekeeping department into teams. Housekeepers take turns using brooms to try and hit a beach ball into the goal. The team with the most goals wins.
Fun variation: To pick teams, draw Housekeepers' name badges from a hat.

95 THE GLOVE RACE Divide the your Houskeepers into teams, and give each team one yellow cleaning glove. One at a time, a Housekeeper fills up the glove with water and walks it across the room to fill up a mop bucket. The first team to fill their bucket wins. **Fun variation:** Play the game outside, and poke a hole in one finger on each team's glove so that a constant tiny stream of water is leaking out of the glove during the race.

96 HOUSEKEEPER OF THE DAY Visit "[The Rec Room](#)" and recognize your star Housekeeper each day. Share a memorable story—or simply tell us why you appreciate them. Your post will be published to share with hotels around the globe.

97 PILLOWCASE RACE Put a spin on the classic potato sack race by using pillowcases instead of potato sacks. team members must climb into the pillowcase, hop across the room, around a bucket or cone, and then hop back to the starting point where they must pass the pillowcase off to the next team member.
Variation: Try playing outside—grass is a great way to cushion a fall.

98 DIZZY BATS Have a Housekeeper spin around 10 times. Then, have another team member pitch a roll of toilet paper, and have the Housekeeper hit it as hard as they can with a wiffle bat. team members who make contact with the toilet paper, and hit it the farthest, receive a small prize.

99 THE VEGGIE 500

Embassy Suites Orlando – Lake Buena Vista, FL, splits the Housekeeping department into six teams. Each team is given the task of building a racecar. Building supplies consist of Tinkertoys® and veggies (eggplant, squash, avocado, etc.). They call it the Veggie 500 race. It gets a lot of laughs and is a fun team-building challenge.



100 ROCK N' ROLL

DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel Naples, FL, had team members dress up and sing to some of the greatest classic rock songs of all time. This fun concert included such iconic figures as Mick Jagger, Tina Turner, Freddy Mercury, Annie Lennox, Meatloaf, Bon Jovi, Eric Clapton, and KISS! [Read more online.](#)



101 HOUSEKEEPING MAKEOVERS

Hampton Inn & Suites Arundel Mills/ Baltimore, MD, has a Mary Kay representative give the Housekeeping team a free makeover. It's a big hit—and is very cost effective! [Read more online.](#)