2026 Team Building Trends: Executive Summary

Navigating Economic Turbulence and Uncertainty

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The Context

2026 will demand sharper strategic alignment than any recent year with seismic shifts in the global geopolitical landscape, tariff policy uncertainty, and economic turbulence.

Fuelling this climate is the ripple effect of:

- elections in over three dozen countries in 2026
- U.S. reciprocal tariffs, a moving target, levied against over 30 countries
- Conflicts in Latin America (most recently Venezuela), Europe and the Middle East are expected to continue for the foreseeable future.

Add to that the aftermath of natural disasters. There has recently been:

- forest fires and flooding in Canada and the USA
- a severe hurricane in Jamaica
- natural disasters ranging from hurricanes to cyclones to earthquakes to volcanic eruptions to severe monsoons in The Philippines, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. Recovery will take an economic toll.

The Good News

The good news is that from Canada and the USA to Asia, Europe, and The Middle East, national economies were more resilient than projected for 2025

For 2026, executives can navigate uncertainty with strategic clarity, intent, and action.

To seize opportunities in the dynamic environment the world is currently experiencing, it's essential for executives to:

- keep abreast of trends
- engage in course correction
- navigate change and turbulence
- diversify supply chains and the customer base

As EY's Global CEO recently noted:

"…uncertainty is going to be the norm."

"*Leaders today must organize their teams not just to react — but to execute with confidence even when the outside world shifts."*

SOURCE: Bloomberg

To provide a framework for addressing these challenges, we are pleased to unveil our 2026 team building trends.

As in previous years, our projections for 2026 team building trends represent both best practices to maximize bottom line impact and pitfalls to avoid.

2026 Team Building Trends

1. Business Team Building Simulations
2. Facilitated strategy sessions and meetings.
3. Artificial Intelligence (AI)
4. Giving Back to the Community
5. Hybrid Team Building

Pitfalls to Avoid

6. Mandating Return to Office Without Collaboration
7. Shelving Team Building
8. Putting play Before performance.
9. Last Minute Planning and Delayed Decision-Making
10. Increased Red Tape

Download 2026 Team Building Trends (Complimentary)