



From boat parties to themed BBQs, here's how 3 Chicago tech companies celebrate summer

By Michael Hines | June 7, 2018

[SMS Assist's](#) technology is used by property management companies to streamline and simplify their repair and maintenance strategies. The company's subcontractor affiliate network is made up of over 20,000 service providers and stretches across the country. Human resources coordinator Callie Frey said the company's summer initiatives stretch far beyond its annual summer barbecue.

How do you help employees spend more time outside in summer?

We adjust our dress code to allow warm weather wear in the office and offer many outdoor options for our SMS Serves volunteering events. Participating in events like Green City Market, Special Olympics Chicago and the J.P. Morgan Corporate Challenge are just a few events SMSers can take part in during the summer. Our health and wellness committee also hosts recurring outdoor events like beach yoga and supports citywide initiatives like Chicago Bike Week. In addition, our location near the lakefront allows employees to take walks on the beach during their breaks.

Do you hold any special events or company outings?

We host a themed outdoor summer party every year that allows SMSers to soak up the sun and have fun with their coworkers and peers. Last year we hosted a luau-themed party at the Oak Street Beach with food, hula and limbo. In addition to our summer parties, we provide everyone the opportunity to attend one of the Cubs versus White Sox crosstown classic games so all SMSers can cheer on their home teams.

Why is it important to SMS Assist to offer these summer benefits?

Summer benefits are necessary after the long Chicago winters. Getting outdoors to enjoy the summer weather together as a team helps build camaraderie in the office. Taking a moment to step outside the office to smell the roses can also lead to a less stressful and happier work environment.