

The Tower Game for Team Building

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Activity Objective

Learn about team roles, planning vs. execution, communication and team effectiveness.

Participants

Can be used with any size group that can be broken into teams of 3 or 4 people. Ideally, there should be at least 3 teams.

Duration

Approximately 1 hour.

Facilitator

A facilitator is recommended to lead the exercise and keep time. You will also need an observer for each group and two or more judges.

Activity

Step 1: Each group is given the following materials:

- Two sheets of poster board paper
- 1 pair of scissors
- 1 scotch tape dispenser
- String (can be a ball or something like 36")
- 10 paper clips
- 10 straws
- Magic markers in various colors
- Some crepe paper streamers
- Glue in various colors, types
- Anything else that comes to mind (Legos, pencils, marshmallows, etc.)

Step 2: The facilitator should tell the groups:

- You will have 40 minutes to construct a tower that will be judged on two criteria: Height & Beauty
- There will be a planning period of at least 10 minutes and an assembly period of not more than 30 minutes
- Towers must be built ONLY with the materials provided
- Towers will be judged by outside observers on the two criteria

Step 3: Send the teams off to work and ask the observers to remain behind for additional directions.

The observers should be looking for things like:

- Was there a designated or emergent leader
- How were decisions made
- How involved were people on the team
- How were the plans formulated
- What worked for the team
- Where did the team run into trouble

While the groups are working, the facilitator should be circulating and making their own observations about the process. Gather several outsiders to assist you in the judging process.

When the 35 minutes have elapsed, the facilitator should tell each team that they have another 5 minutes to put together a short presentation to market their tower.

Step 4: Each team briefly presents on their final product to the whole group.

Step 5: Based on the established criteria, the facilitator and the judges have a quick meeting to come to consensus on the ratings and present the winner with some simple prize/award.

Reflection

What did the observers make of the teams?

What did the teams learn about how they work together?

Sharing

In the comments section of the online activity post, we encourage you to share something that you learned or something that surprised you.