
19 June 2014

Dear Friends,

Taking a break during a meeting to rise, stretch, or play a game can re-vitalize the energy and build team spirit.

Today we are sharing a few team-building activities. There may be one or two new ones here that will work with your team. We hope you have fun with them!

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

(Resource) 8 Teambuilding Activities

(Resource) Teampedia - online resource for teambuilding ideas

(Accepting Proposals) The 40 Chances Seed Grants Program

(Accepting Applicants) 2014 Lynn Syms Prize

(Resource) 8 Teambuilding Activities

Pit Latrine Game

Purpose: Learn more about team members as individuals.

Directions: Get rolls of toilet paper and explain to your group that they are going to the rural areas and need to take as much toilet paper as they think they may need for a two day trip. Once everyone has their ample supply, explain to the group that for every square in their possession, they must share something unique or interesting about themselves.

Two Truths & A Lie

Purpose: Learn more about team members as individuals.

Directions: Have individuals each take turns making three statements about themselves—two that are true and one that is a lie. After an individual makes their statements, the other members of the group discuss among themselves which is the “lie.” The individual then reveals the lie and provides a bit more background about the “truths” as well as what might have made the others select the “lie.”

Human Knot Exercise

Purpose: Discover the importance of joint problem-solving & interdependence on a team.

Directions: Have the group form a circle. Everyone in the group reaches across the circle with their right hand to grab another group member's right hand. The group then reaches in with their left hand to grab a different group member's left hand. The object is to untangle the group without letting go of hands until a circle is formed. If the group is not able to get untangled after prolonged attempts, the knot may not be solvable.

Web We Weave

Purpose: Discover the importance of individuals in an effective team.

Directions: The group stands in one large circle. The facilitator begins the game by asking a question such as, "What is your favourite place to be when you are happy?" The facilitator tosses a yarnball across to another person, while holding onto the end of the yarn. The person answers the question, holding onto the yarn, and then tosses it to someone else. The game continues in the same fashion, until everyone has answered the question. By tossing the yarn around the group, participants weave a web that connects all of the members of the team in some manner. The facilitator can ask as many questions as appropriate. The facilitator then asks two or three members to drop their strings. The web begins to sag and appears to be very weak and vulnerable. The facilitator can then discuss how important each participant is to the team and the effect that low levels of involvement and commitment has on the entire team. At the end, the group can kneel down and place the web on the ground. Group members can cut a piece of the string from the web to keep as a reminder of the exercise and the thoughts the group shared.

Follow the directions exercise

Purpose: Appreciate others' perspectives and orientation to rules/instructions.

Directions:

1. Hand each participant a square piece of paper.
2. Let them know there are only two rules: a) Each person must keep their eyes closed, and b) they must not ask any questions.
3. Ask them to fold their paper in half and tear off the bottom right corner.
4. Tell them to fold the paper in half again and tear off the lower left corner.
5. Ask them to open their eyes and display their unfolded paper.
6. Lead a discussion using the questions below:
 - a. How did each person end up with a different shape to their paper if they were all following the same instructions?
 - b. Are there times when this happens at your organization?
 - c. What possible options do we have for managing this dynamic?

Come to Me

Purpose: To build trust between team members.

Directions: Divide the group into pairs. The first partner stands with their eyes closed. The second partner sneaks up on them from behind, either slowly or quickly. The first partner stops the other before they touch by listening carefully and then shouting STOP when they sense that the other is close. Objective is to see how close your partner can get.

Hog Call (needs blindfolds for all participants)

Purpose: To build trust and communication between team members.

Directions: Divide the group into pairs. The partners have to come up with a word or phrase that can be split into two (e.g. hot-dog). One person will be HOT and the other will be DOG. Split the partners up on opposite ends of the room. Both are blindfolded and the only way they can find their partner is to shout their half of the name, e.g. the person that is HOT will shout HOT and listen where DOG is shouting. They will walk towards each other.

Variation:

Divide the group into fours.

ZIP-ZAP-ZOOM

Purpose: Energizer

Directions: Everybody stands in a circle and a volunteer stands in the middle. The person in the middle points to a person in the circle. S/he shouts ZIP, ZAP, or ZOOM. If the caller says ZIP, the pointed person has to say the person's name to his/her left. If the caller says ZAP, the pointed person has to say the person's name to his/her right. If the caller says ZOOM, the pointed person has to say their own name. If the pointed person does not respond right away, s/he has to step into the middle and become the caller.

(Resource) Teampedia - free online resource for teambuilding ideas

Looking for more teambuilding ideas? Check out Teampedia at <http://bit.ly/1n7NTKZ>. Teampedia is a collaborative encyclopedia, like wikipedia. Anyone can add team building activities, icebreakers, teamwork resources, and tools for teams. The site is designed for group leaders, trainers, teachers, managers, counselors, youth groups, or camps -- basically anyone who wants to enhance collaboration and creativity. If you are in a hurry, you can do a quick search on their site to turn up instructions for a new teambuilding exercise.

(Accepting Proposals) The 40 Chances Seed Grants Program

The Howard G. Buffett Foundation invites applications from non-profit organizations around the globe who are taking action in the areas of food security, conflict, or poverty alleviation.

The 40 Chances Seed Grants Program is a global call for innovative solutions to hunger, conflict, or poverty issues in partnership with Arizona State University's Lodestar Center for Philanthropy & Nonprofit Innovation.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Applicants must have US 501(c)(3) tax exempt status to be eligible, or be sponsored by an organization that does.
- Applicant organizations must clearly involve local leadership and management into the operations of the organization.
- Applicants must integrate locally driven design, development, and deployment in its programs or services.
- Applicant organization's efforts should fill gaps in existing value chains, or otherwise combine a variety of complementary and existing efforts into a comprehensive and integrated approach to solve the intended challenge.

Application materials include- curriculum vitae/resume, budget outline, business plan, applicant (individual)'s photo, organization logo, and photos of the project.

Deadline: 15 October 2014

Online application is located here: <http://bit.ly/1ucj7Dd>

(Accepting Applicants) 2014 Lynn Syms Prize

The Lynn Syms prize will recognize a relatively unknown activist who addresses a pervasive problem faced by women around the world. The prize-winner will possess an exceptional track record of early accomplishment in community-based work to support women. The prize seeks to honor a grassroots leader who primarily works in a developing country, has a demonstrated ability to elevate community concerns, and serves as an inspiration to community leaders elsewhere. The prize will recognize an individual who has established an organization, program, or project in the early stage of development. This leader will embody characteristics such as: courage, commitment, integrity, and the ability to communicate effectively.

Importantly, for the 2014 prize, candidates must also be successfully using digital tools to advance their work and must participate in World Pulse's Women Weave the Web Campaign. In order to be eligible for the prize, the candidate must submit three written journal entries

to World Pulse's 2014 Women Weave the Web Campaign and fill in the application form below before August 13, 2014. If you want to learn about our campaign, check out our How to Participate (<http://bit.ly/1lqDqfk>) page.

The prize includes US \$20,000 paid out over two years to support community-based work, a feature profile on WorldPulse.com, and an all-expense paid trip to share the message in New York City.

The deadline for submission is **13 August 2014**. To apply, visit: <http://bit.ly/1hMY6yJ>

As part of the Firelight Foundation's Capacity Building Program, Firelight provides "Newsflashes" to share relevant resources and information with our active grantee-partners via weekly emails and via post on a monthly basis. We hope that by facilitating access to information for grassroots, community-focused organizations, programming for children and families, as well as organizational development, is enhanced. Past editions of the Firelight Newsflash can be found on our website:

<http://www.firelightfoundation.org/resources/newsflash>

We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes at newsletter@firelightfoundation.org

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