Part of the Team

Teams are not just in sports. Teams are an important part of today’s workplace, and teamwork is a critical skill for employment. Employers want employees who can cooperate with one another so that more work can be accomplished. Teamwork skills are becoming more important in the workplace and youth need to be aware of the skills they have and how they can improve them.

Youth will learn

Workforce Skills: Teamwork and problem solving
Success Indicators: Youth will identify characteristics of a good team member and how those characteristics can be useful when solving a problem.

What You Need:
Suggested Time Involved: 30 minutes
Suggested Group Size: Any size
Materials Needed:
- Flip charts or poster board
- Pens or pencils
- “Team Characteristics” Handout
- “Task Scenario Search and Rescue” Handout

Facilitator Tips:
After completing the activity, use the questions in the Talk It Over section to discuss teamwork and problem solving with the group.

The Activity

1. **Lead the teens in a discussion about teams.**
   Discuss where teams are found and come up with examples of what type of teams exist. Examples:
   a) In sports
   b) At school
   c) In clubs
   d) In church
   e) In activity groups
   f) In the workplace
2. Teamwork Time

Introduce the task by explaining to the teens that there is a hard job coming and they need to assemble the best group possible to do it. They are going to need to put together a team of five people. Then give the teens a list of the people’s characteristics they must choose from and ask them to decide who they would want on their team of five:

- Only willing to lead, but will not follow directions.
- Loves to be in charge but can work with others also.
- Very shy and quiet, refuses to contribute in larger groups.
- Had good ideas to share.
- Loves saying how well everyone else is doing, but does not do a lot herself.
- A great talker.
- A hard worker.
- A good listener.
- Good at finishing a job, but not so great at starting one.
- Argues with everyone but very fast and efficient.
- Full of inspiring ideas but not great at common sense.
- Very practical and good at hands-on jobs.
- Complains all the time about having to contribute.
- A quiet achiever.
- Disappears when the going gets tough but good at simple tasks.

3. Hand out “Task Scenario – Search & Rescue.” Give the teens an opportunity to read the scenario.

4. Discuss: Ask the teens to look at their lists of team characteristics again and decide if they want to make any changes to their team now that they know the specifics of the job.
Once they have their final list, tell them to group with three to four other people. Have them share their choices and explain why they made them. Then, as a small group, have them come to a consensus on the five characteristics they want the team to have.

Finally, have the small groups share their choices with the whole group. Write out the characteristics they chose and keep a tally of any repeats, making a ranking of all the team member characteristics. See what the most popular choices were among the group as a whole.

## Talk It Over

### Share
- What did you notice about qualities that are valued for working in teams?

### Process
- Consider if your choices would change depending on the type of task to be performed and explain why.
- What sort of characteristics are best suited to which kinds of tasks?

### Generalize
- Why are teams important? When are teams useful?
  - Some reasons to consider:
    - Others can think of things we may forget.
    - People to share the workload.
    - It allows people to take turn and try out different roles.
    - It is more motivating and interesting to work with others
    - There is someone to talk to and talk things through.
    - Able to look at things from a different perspective.
    - It is a way to get new and different ideas.

- Why people do not use teams?
  - Some reasons to consider:
    - It may take more time than doing it yourself.
    - Some people want all the credit.
    - It takes time to organize a team.
    - A team need a leader and no one steps up.
    - Had a bad experience working on a team- e.g., Did not accomplish the goal.
Apply

• How would you describe your own approach when it comes to teamwork?
• How can you use this information the next time you have to work as part of a team?
• What can you do to improve your teamwork skills?

Remind them to think of ways at school, at home, or in the community. Here are some suggestions:
  • Show team members respect by being on time for events or meetings.
  • Be courteous to team members, coaches, teachers, advisors, etc.
  • Follow all the rules.
  • Always do your best.
  • Maintain a positive attitude—no matter what.
  • Cheer on and support team members.
  • Compliment team members for good performances.
  • Encourage team members when performance is poor.
  • Help team members who are struggling.
  • Ask what you can do to help the team and do it.
  • Socialize with team members.
  • Discuss problems in a way that helps the situation and does not hurt anyone’s feelings.

• How does the concept of teamwork apply to being a camp counselor?
• How are teams an important part of today’s workplace?
  • Discuss that employers value those who have teamwork skills and can demonstrate how they have used.
Assemble a Team: You need to put together a group of five people. From the list below, select which five people you would add to your team.

Team Members:
- Only willing to lead, but will not follow directions.
- Loves to be in charge but can also work with others.
- Very shy and quiet, does not usually contribute in larger groups.
- Had good ideas to share.
- Loves saying how well everyone else is doing, but does not do a lot herself.
- A great talker.
- A hard worker.
- A good listener.
- Good at finishing a job, but not so great at starting one.
- Argues with everyone but very fast and efficient.
- Full of inspiring ideas but not great at common sense.
- Very practical and good at hands-on jobs.
- Complains all the time about having to contribute.
- A quiet achiever.
- Disappears when the going gets tough but good at simple tasks.
Task Scenario “Search and Rescue”

“Imagine you are part of a search and rescue team. The team has received a call from a nearby campground that a young child has gone missing in the forest. It is nearly evening and you need to organize a search team to try and find the child before nightfall. All the equipment is ready, but the trail through the forest is narrow and the terrain is rough and rugged. The nearby cliffs are reported to be unstable so you can only take a small team of five people to set off into the forest as the initial search party. The rest of your group must stay behind and join in the search in the morning if the child has not been found. Too many people on the trail at once could dislodge boulders from the cliff, or they may get in each other’s way on the small trail.”

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