All Aboard (Team On A Tee Shirt)

There are times we have to stick together as a group and help each other hang-on.

Object: Get everyone standing on the square at one time so that no one is touch the ground outside the square.

Set Up: Place the 2’x2’ cloth square in the center of an area clear of obstacles.

Rules: Everyone must be on the square for at least 10 seconds without touching the ground outside the square. The group may count off their attempt in unison or designate one counter. (Singing “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” is optional.) If the group is successful and time allows, you may attempt to fold the cloth in half and try again.

Safety: If the group huddles together and starts to tip/fall to one side, members should stop and regroup. Take care of your own balance, and be aware of others. Help if needed; one member may be designated to stand out for this problem to spot.

Debrief: How did everyone participate? How did the group take time to plan? Did you have to experiment with more than one method before finding a successful solution? How did you deal with frustrations? How did it feel to be so close to other people?
Quick Line-Ups

To make quick decisions, groups must have good communication and trust.

Object: Get everyone in your group standing shoulder to shoulder in a line according to various orders.

Set Up: Agree on where you will line up (a line or tape on the floor is optional), and which ends will start or finish the order.

Rules: One member will make up an order, such as: height, shoe-size, birthday, alphabetical by middle name, zip code, etc. After the order has been announced, no one may talk. Once the group believes you are in the correct order, count off or announce to see if you are correct. You may do as many different order line-ups as time allows. For added challenge, try having the group close your eyes and not talk.

Safety: If you close your eyes, use the “bumpers up” position (both hands up in front, palms facing away) for protection, and move about slowly.

Debrief: How did everyone participate? How did the group trust? How did the group communicate?
Action Socialization Experiences
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**Group Juggling**

There are times it seems we must try to do a number of tasks at the same time while balancing our own needs with the needs of others.

Object: Try to keep as many “balls” simultaneously aloft as you can.

Set Up: Be sure the area is clear of obstacles, including behind you. Have your group stand facing one another in a circle no more than 12-15 feet in diameter. You’ll need enough comparatively soft, throwable objects (Kush® balls, tennis balls, bean bags, etc.) available next to the first team member.

Rules: The first team member lobes one ball to a person across the circle. That person lobes it to a person opposite from him/her, and this continues until a person-to-person sequence has been established. The last person returns the ball back to the first member.

Once everyone knows to whom to throw and from whom to receive, the initiator starts the ball again, and this time repeats with another ball and eventually another object until there are almost as many objects going in the pattern as there are people in the group.

Your group may want to call names and thank each other as you toss; this can be a fun name game.

If the group is successful and time allows, try reversing the sequence.

Safety: No hard balls or fast pitches to the head. If a ball is dropped or rolls out of the circle, be careful not to run into something or someone while retrieving it.

Debrief: How did everyone participate?
How did the group take time to plan?
How could you have improved?
How did it feel when the group was working in unison?
How did the group communicate?
Continental Divide

The Continental Divide is the main series of Rocky Mountain crests that separate rivers flowing east into the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico from those flowing west into the Pacific Ocean.

Object: Without breaking the connections, your group needs to move from point A to point B.

Set Up: Mark points A and B on the floor with tape. The space between them can be long or short, and it may be straight and open or there may be obstacles to go around.

Rules: The group forms a line, either standing side by side or behind one another.
Each person’s foot must be touching the person’s foot beside him or her.
If the connection is broken, the whole group must start over at the starting point.
If successful, you can add a variation such as moving without talking, or with eyes closed.

Safety: You may support one another by holding hands or shoulders, and move about slowly. If you choose to close eyes, members at both ends keep eyes open and speak up for obstacles.

Debrief: How did everyone participate?
How did the group take time to plan?
How could you have improved?
How did it feel when the group moved in unison?

(Credit for the idea of this initiative problem comes from Andrew “Huck” Ford of the Hudson Montessori School in northeastern Ohio)
Action Socialization Experiences
Joel Wilkinson

**Blind Polygons**

Polygons are closed geometric figures made of straight-line sides and vertex points at the corners.

**Object:** Form the rope into a perfect square, triangle or other regular polygon while the group is blindfolded.

**Set Up:** Be sure the area is clear of obstacles. You may choose to start standing in a circle holding the rope, or your group stands 10’ or so away from the rope simply placed on the ground. You’ll need blindfolds for everyone and to help each other put them on.

**Rules:** The group must first decide what polygon to form.
Everyone must stay blindfolded while forming the shape.
Once the group believes you have formed the correct shape, you may remove your blindfolds to check.
Your group may continue to make other polygons as time allows.

**Safety:** If you need to walk with blindfolds on, use the “bumpers up” position (both hands up in front, palms facing away) for protection, and move about slowly.

**Debrief:** How did everyone participate?
How did the group take time to plan?
How did the group make use of all members and resources?
How did it feel to be blindfolded?
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Don’t be a stick in the mud!. Variations of initiatives like “The Swamp” or a “Poison Peanut Butter Pit” have been around for years. Now work together in your group to create your own ASE. There are some more props and a space here if you want to “act” it out on your own. Always consider safety please!

Object: ___________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

Set Up: __________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

Rules: ___________________________________________________________

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_________________________________________________________________

Safety: ___________________________________________________________

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_________________________________________________________________

Debrief: _________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________
Traffic Jam

When people meet on a narrow path, it can take some negotiation to help everyone pass.

Object: Get everyone through the traffic jam to the respective spaces on the opposite side from where they start.

Set Up: Place squares in a straight line about one step apart. You will need one more square than there are people in your group.

Rules: Leave the middle square empty to begin. Half the group stands on the squares to the right, the other half on the squares to the left. Everyone faces the middle, empty square. Everyone must remain standing on or moving to a square. If anyone steps out of the squares, the group must start over. A person may move onto an empty square in front of him/her. You may move around one person who is facing you onto an empty square. You may NOT move backwards, or turn around. You may NOT move around someone facing your direction. Only one person may move at a time, NO move can involve two people at the same time.

Safety: Take care of your own balance, and be aware of others. Help if needed. It is better to keep everyone safe and need to start the moves over than for someone to get hurt.

Debrief: How did everyone participate? How did the group take time to plan? How did the group come up with successful solution(s)? How did you deal with frustrations?
Action Socialization Experiences
Joel Wilkinson

Electric Fence

On the farm, an electric wire fence keeps the livestock in the field, but a group of people can work together to get over.

Object: Get everyone in your group over the wire without touching it.

Set Up: Tie a string about three feet off the ground between the backs of two chairs set several yards apart.

Rules: Everyone begins on one side of the “fence.”
An “electric field” extends from the wire to the ground; you may NOT go under the string.
The chairs are out of bounds; you may NOT climb on or walk around the chairs.
If a person touches the string he or she is “zapped” and must go back to attempt the crossing again.
Any person touching a person who is “zapped” must also return for another crossing.

Safety: Help each other carefully, knowing your own strengths and limits. If your group lifts members off the ground, be sure to spot each other and keep your hands up for protection. The last person should not attempt a running dive! Be careful if the string pulls the chairs over on someone. The height of the string should be adjusted from the beginning with consideration of the age, size and experience of the group members.

Debrief: How did everyone participate?
How did the group take time to plan?
How did the group make use of all members and resources?
How did you decide whom to send first? ...last?
How much encouragement did individuals give others and the group?
The Bear Claw

The dominant bear marks its territory by leaving the highest claw mark on a tree.

Object: Attempt to put your mark as high as possible on the wall.

Set Up: Be sure the area around you is clear and that the wall is sturdy. You will use “sticky tabs” for your mark(s).

Rules: The group will use only itself for support. You may not climb on furnishings or on elements of the wall. The group may make up to three attempts to place their mark as high as possible.

Safety: Spotting is essential. Any time a group member is off the ground, there must be at least two others spotting with hands up and palms out for protection. Only lift according to your own strengths and limits.

Debrief: How did everyone participate? How did the group take time to plan? How did the group make use of all members and resources? How did you decide who should lift or be lifted? How did the group deal with competition?
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may also check out: https://www.tomwujec.com/design-projects/marshmallow-challenge/