

## 50 Quick & Easy Team Building Ideas

Team-building activities are a great way to establish trust and camaraderie among coworkers while having fun in the process. It also increases effective communication and productivity. The ideas below are great ways to foster teamwork within your organization. Use them to make work more rewarding and successful.

### 1. Lucky Strike

Take everyone on an outing to the local bowling alley after work. Separate employees into groups of four and have each team compete against the others to see who gets the highest score.

### 2. Come On Over

Host an open house for other departments to visit your area of the workplace. Choose two or three employees to give tours of your department and speak about everyone's responsibilities. Work with other managers in your company so your employees can visit their departments as well.

### 3. Head Gear

Hold a "Hat's Off To Our Team" Day and give everyone ball caps with your company logo. Pass out small tokens of appreciation, such as **Teamwork Identity Guard Aluminum Wallets**, to those who wear their caps all day long.

### 4. Decorate And Celebrate

Organize a pumpkin-carving contest for Halloween. Divide employees into teams and give each a TV show theme, such as "The Brady Bunch" or "Gilligan's Island." Ask that they carve their pumpkins with these themes in mind. Once finished, have everyone vote for their favorites.

### 5. Team Effort

Encourage employees to volunteer together outside of work. Do research on local charities that could use extra help. Reward employees who volunteer with special gifts, such as **"10 Reasons Teamwork Matters" Full-Color Sip 'N' Go Tumblers and Straws**.

### 6. Community Collection

During the holiday season, suggest that employees organize a company-wide food or toy drive. Have them work together to advertise the need for donations, set up collection spots, and distribute the goods.

### 7. Meaningful Menu

Bring in a local chef to host a cooking class for staff members and give them tips for eating healthfully. Let your employees know that "teamwork" is an essential ingredient in your company's recipe for success.

### 8. Walk To Wellness

Promote good health and exercise by starting a workplace walking club. Encourage those who want to lose weight or just stay fit to join. Schedule a convenient time for club members to walk, such as during lunch or before or after work.

### 9. Essential Supplies

Put your employees' survival skills to the test. Give them a survival scenario, such as being stranded on a deserted island. Break them into groups and have each group decide on the most important five items they'd need to survive. Once they come to a consensus, have each team discuss why they picked the items they did.

### 10. Furthering Education

Research training opportunities or conferences in your region, and send employees off-site to learn and interact together in a different environment. Upon their return, have them give a presentation about skills they learned and the new ideas they acquired.

### 11. Hide And Seek

Hold a scavenger hunt. Hand out a list of work-related supplies for each team to find, such as a stapler or pencil sharpener. Give a time limit for the teams to locate the items, and reward the group that finishes first with **Teamwork Deluxe Hot and Cold Beverage Gift Sets**.

## **12. Match Maker**

Give each employee a bingo card with a fact about a coworker listed on every square. Instruct card holders to mingle and converse with other employees to find what people go with the facts on the cards. Once a match has been discovered, have the person sign his or her square on the card. The first one to get autographs in a vertical, horizontal, or diagonal line wins.

## **13. Play Time**

Bring in board games, such as Pictionary® or Trivial Pursuit®, and encourage employees to play during lunch breaks. Make sure they mix up teams so different people play against each other.

## **14. Time Capsule**

Break up employees into small teams. Instruct them to choose five material goods that best describe civilization today. (The items would have to be small enough to fit into a box.) Tell them that, in the future, aliens or highly advanced civilizations will find the box and learn about current civilization from its contents. Have each team defend its choices.

## **15. Catch Phrase**

Give each team an item, such as a notebook, pen, tie, or lamp. Then allow only five minutes to develop a 30-second sales jingle meant to convince you to buy that item. Present a gift, such as a **Teamwork Lapel Pin With Presentation Card**, to members of the team with the best tune.

## **16. Get It Together**

Separate employees into groups of three or four and place a jigsaw puzzle (a large-piece children's puzzle of 100 pieces or less) on a table for each team. See who can put the puzzle together the fastest. Reward members of the winning group with **"Teamwork: You're An Essential Piece" Full-Color Pens With Pillow Boxes**.

## **17. Sweet Solution**

Divide staff members into groups of two. Then give each group 20 gumdrops and 12 toothpicks and instruct each pair to build a dome. Offer a sweet treat to the couple that builds the best dome in the least amount of time.

## **18. Web Weaver**

Attach two pieces of rope across a door frame; one three feet off the ground and the other four and a half feet from the floor creating an 18-inch "window." Have employees work together to get everyone through the opening without touching the ropes.

## **19. Word Nerds**

Break your work crew up into small teams, and give each one an acronym, such as "STAR." Give teams five minutes to come up with the best work-related words to go with each acronym. When the five minutes are up, have the teams share their words. Give those who came up with the best one **Teamwork Dome 2GB USB Key Rings**.

## **20. Mixed-Up Message**

Have your employees work on communication skills with a good old-fashioned game of "telephone" or "operator." Break them up into groups of six or seven, and have each group sit in a circle. Give one person in each group a secret work-related message that he or she whispers into the ear of the next person. Have each team whisper their message from person to person around the circle. Ask the last person to announce the message out loud, and see which team had the best communication.

## **21. What To Wear?**

On a Friday, secretly assign a genre of clothing to each employee, such as Hawaiian shirts or Western wear, being sure that several people are given the same type of clothing. Ask staff members to wear their special clothes at the beginning of the following week. On Monday, separate staff into teams based on their clothing and give them a goal to accomplish together that week.

## **22. Watch Your Step**

Scatter objects throughout a conference room or large open space in your facility. Separate workers into pairs. Then blindfold one member of each team and have their partners verbally guide them through the "minefield" of objects.

## **23. Creative Challenge**

Increase teamwork by having staff members work together to create a new, team-building activity. Be sure they implement the elements of communication, goal setting, planning, and cooperation. Have them try the activity at the end of the day, and reward them for their hard work.

#### **24. Two Truths And A Lie**

Ask team members to write down two truthful statements and one lie about themselves. Have each person take turns reading the three statements. Make other team members guess the incorrect statement.

#### **25. Pick Their Brains**

Use a brainstorming session to bolster teamwork. Give team members a topic to start brainstorming and a goal to achieve, and appoint a person to write down thoughts as they come up. Make sure that everyone has a chance to offer ideas. Pass out **"Thanks For Your Commit-'MINT' To Teamwork" Treat Packs** to all participants.

#### **26. Worst Or First?**

Help employees get to know each other's work history before they landed their current job. Going around the room, ask each person to tell a brief story of his or her first, or least favorite, job.

#### **27. Learning Curve**

Have workers team up with someone they don't normally interact with. Instruct each duo to ask each other to name a moment in their work or personal life that made them proud and something that most people don't know about them. Then, have each person share what was discovered about his or her partner.

#### **28. Speed Meeting**

Give employees a chance to get to know one another better with a takeoff on a "Speed Dating" session. Seat half of a group of employees at tables and have the other half move from one person to the next at one- or two-minute intervals. During these short discussions, employees can share personal histories and interests.

#### **29. New Networks**

Sit in a circle with your coworkers. Holding a ball of twine, reveal something embarrassing about yourself. Then, grasping the end of the twine, toss the ball across to the other side of the circle. Keep going until everyone has had a turn and you've created a net that connects all of you.

#### **30. Game On!**

Using poster board, markers, and the imaginations of your employees, create a board game based on your company or organization. Make cards for players to choose that feature job-related questions. The questions must be answered for players to move forward.

#### **31. A Stellar Example**

Have all staff members share the name of a person they admire, either current or historical. Be sure to ask why they admire the person and how they think that person has influenced their lives.

#### **32. Monthly Match-Up**

Get workers to form a single, straight line in order of their birthdays without communicating verbally. People with January birthdays will be at the beginning of the line and December birthdays will be at the end. Once the line is finished, have every person say his or her birthday out loud.

#### **33. Don't Break Down!**

Give each team a pile of materials, such as straws, string, Styrofoam cups, and a cardboard box. Challenge them to make a "flying nest" that will help an egg withstand being dropped from at least six feet. Ask that each team explain why they constructed the "nest" the way they did. Then have them put an egg in their creation and drop it to see if it will survive the fall. Distribute **"Teamwork: You're An Essential Piece" Daytona Lunch Bags** to all participants.

#### **34. Shadow People**

Allow each employee to shadow a coworker who has a different job. If it's not possible for the two to spend all day together, give them at least an hour to learn from each other. When each person is done with his or her shadowing exercise, ask what was learned.

### **35. Be Nice**

Honor one worker a day. Ask every other employee to write down something nice about him or her on small note cards. Then collect the notes and give it to the person at the end of the day.

### **36. Special Recognition**

Start an "Employee of the Month" program in your workplace. Instead of selecting the employee to be honored yourself, establish a committee of employees to choose. Change committee members from month to month.

### **37. Caring Categories**

Highlight everyone's good qualities with thoughtful certificates and awards each quarter. Seek the assistance of other staff members to come up with the award categories, such as "Best Listener" or "Most Likely To Help A Stray Animal," that show you notice your workers' unique qualities.

### **38. Good Ear**

Let your employees know that their opinions matter and play an important role in your company. Each week, plan to eat lunch with a few employees to get their feedback on company policies and procedures. Take good notes and use some of their ideas to make your business better.

### **39. After Hours Honors**

Take notice of your employees' accomplishments outside of work. Perhaps a coworker has received an award for volunteering in your community. Be sure to publicly acknowledge achievements and remind employees to share these things with you.

### **40. Food For Thought**

Invite employees and their families to a Family Day Barbecue at a local park. Bring sports equipment, such as a volleyball net and ball, to encourage workers to team up for a little healthy competition. Be sure to say a few words thanking all of those on your work team.

### **41. Say Cheese!**

Give everyone "**10 Reasons Teamwork Matters**" 2-Sided T-Shirts to wear. Then have them pose for a group photo wearing their new shirts. Put the photo in your workplace's newsletter or submit it to a local newspaper.

### **42. Breaking Bread**

Order pizzas when your team has to work late or through lunch to meet a deadline. While you eat, allow some time to socialize before getting back to work.

### **43. Sports Figures**

Sign your company up to sponsor a local youth sports team. Give employees special incentives to attend the games. At the end of the season, invite the youngsters to your workplace for an ice cream social.

### **44. Acknowledgement From Above**

Ask your CEO or president to make the rounds on occasion to meet and thank all employees. Have him or her give updates on your company to keep employees "in the loop."

### **45. Well Played**

Hold a tailgate party at your workplace parking lot before a highly anticipated football game. Cook up hot dogs and hamburgers, and invite employees and their friends and families to attend.

### **46. Put On A Show**

In the summer, put up a big screen in the parking lot to show family movies. Invite employees and their spouses and children to be entertained at your "drive-in." Serve popcorn and healthy snacks and beverages for everyone to enjoy.

### **47. 'Tis The Season**

Organize a Christmas Eve holiday luncheon at work or a local restaurant. Pass out tokens of appreciation and thank everyone for their contributions to the business that year. A great gift is **Teamwork Vista Tote Bags**.

**48. Pass A Dish**

Organize a monthly potluck. For each one, select several people to bring in casseroles and salads to share. The next month, chose different employees to cook or bake. Have each group of coworkers work together to create a theme for the potlucks.

**49. Little Things Add Up**

One day a week, place a small treat, such as a mini candy bar, on each person's desk. Attach to it an inspirational saying about teamwork or a simple phrase of appreciation, such as, "You're an important member of our team."

**50. Good Catch**

Select two or three employees each week to keep an eye on the good behavior of their coworkers. Have them report to you at the end of the week about which staff members went above and beyond to do their jobs better. Then, publicly congratulate these high achievers and give them **Scratch Cards** from the "**Caught Being A Team Player**" **Scratch & Win Prize Pack**.