

Team Building and Group Dynamics – Specialty Track 2

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SUMMARY:	Understanding, Appreciating and Strengthening Differentiated Learning Styles. How to achieve your goals through different methods – <i>Submitted by Meir Balofsky</i>
TOPIC(S):	Communication Skills, Community Building, Leadership Development
LEARNING OBJECTIVE:	Learn to appreciate and maximize what each person in your group / team brings to the table. Engage in a variety of modalities to bring out the best in everyone.
AUDIENCE:	All ages – 25 max
TIMING:	90 minutes
APPENDICES:	4 children of the Passover Seder
MATERIALS NEEDED:	1 ream of paper, markers, flip chart, plastic silverware – 10 forks, knives, spoons. 20 mardi gras beads. 6 cardboard boxes. Plastacine.
SET-UP DETAILS:	Large space – no furniture

SESSION TIMELINE & OUTLINE:

“As counselors and Jewish educators, most of you will be forgotten.”
Discuss what makes a teacher memorable. How do you make a real difference as an educator?

WARM UP

THROW AN ALLIGATOR

An icebreaker with the goal to get the group in a more playful loose mood. Line up the group into two parallel lines. Have them stand about 3 feet apart. One line is told that they are each holding a basketball. They are then to “throw” the basketball to their partner. Throwers must react to throwing a basketball and the receivers must react to catching it.

Repeat with: Beach ball. Cactus. Bunny Rabbit. Alligator.

Allow the participants to embrace their imagination and break down the barriers to fun interaction.

Breakout 3 – Jewish Holiday Song Session

Participants are to get into groups of which is their favorite Jewish Holiday. After finding the groups, they are to take a couple of minutes and share why they chose that group. They are then to declare their group to everyone by singing a song of their choice from that holiday.

Distribute 12 sheets of paper and a marker to each group.

Ask the following questions – As a team they must settle on an answer that they write on the paper.

Round 1:

How many people here go to a camp in Canada?

How many people will be at their camp for 10 or more years as of this summer?

How many people here have been to Israel in the last 5 years?

How many people here use Hebrew in their camp?

Round 2:

How many people here play an instrument?

How many people here listen to Jazz music?

How many people here have been to an art gallery in the last 12 months?

How many people here have been to a professional sports event in the last 12 months?

Round 3:

How many people studied science in school, every year since first grade?

How many people here know CPR well enough to teach it?

How many people here know ANYTHING about how to develop and create an App?

How many people here have played a full round of golf (not mini)?

After each round – review the answers and score the team - Each team reveals their guess, and then by show of hands finding out the answers.

A fun opportunity to discover the diversity of who is in the group

HAGGADAH LESSON

Distribute the handout from the Passover Haggadah.

Discuss the structure of the Haggadah as a teaching tool document - and that the goal of the Seder is to educate all participants on why “tonight is different”

Discuss the 4 students and identify their learning styles. Open minded – closed minded – simple – and the disengaged.

Breakout 4 – Recipe mix

Take a number of recipes and cut up the instructions into their own pieces of paper. Everyone is to then pick a paper and they must find the rest of their recipe.

TIME / TALENT / TORAH

In the new groups, the following challenges will be presented.

The first challenge is for TIME

Each team must assign a time keeper who will start and stop a stopwatch timer for each task. When each task is completed the watch stops and is continued for the next task when it's announced.

Task 1 – Create a group secret handshake and everyone must contribute an idea.

Task 2 – Prepare an epic speech everyone must contribute only 1 sentence and it must all make sense.

Task 3 – Make a “wonder” of the world.

Task 4 – Make a team cheer.

After each team declares themselves “ready” the stopwatch is stopped. Each group presents and then the new task is presented. Once we are done all the tasks the teams must declare their total times. Rather than rank them by the fastest time – total the digits and whichever sum is highest is the “winner.”

The second challenge is for TALENT

Each group member must teach a “talent” to the rest of the group

The third challenge is for TORAH

Each group member is to share a Jewish teaching or an important moment in their Jewish identity.

Breakout 6 – Poker!. Everyone chooses a random card from a deck of cards. Everyone is to create the best 5 card poker hand possible. Groups of 5 will be created and they win a bag of chips (Get it? they win all the chips!! 😊!)

SEE – RUN – BUILD

Each team will assign, the "seers, the runners and the builders." There will be an elaborate design / structure of composed of many different part. (Construction paper cut into shapes, cups, plates, forks, pipe cleaners, string). The seers look at the thing and run to another station where the runners are waiting. They tell them what they saw (describe a part of it). The runners run to another room where the builders are waiting with the bag full of the same material that the structure is made of. The runner has to describe to them how to build it. Since they will not be able to describe it all at once they have to keep running back in forth. Seers cannot run straight to the builders they have to go through the runners, etc. the 1st team to build the structure wins.

Conclusion – Discuss the value of games and activities that use different skill sets and allow different people in the group to shine!

- If time permits add one of the team building games found at the end of session 3