

Building Dynamic Groups



Introduction

Welcome to “**Building Dynamic Groups**”! We are pleased that you have taken on the challenge of striving for excellence in building or enhancing the groups you work with to help them function in a dynamic, viable, cutting-edge manner.

“**Building Dynamic Groups**” is an exciting tool that can be used with staff, committees, boards, collaborations, partnerships, coalitions, ad hoc groups, task forces, and other groups to build their inner relationships, become dynamic, and function at their best. It addresses the areas of communication, facilitation, team building, collaboration, and visioning. There is also a section on assessments and ice breakers to use as groups get started.

Format

Each topical area in the kit has a variety of activities that can easily be used with your group. You will find all the materials you need for that activity in the kit. You may need to make additional copies of handouts for larger groups. Procedures and guidelines, along with occasional variations are given for each activity. Choose an activity that will focus on building your group. Activities can be used individually, or several can be used as a series. You will find some duplication of activities in the kit. This duplication occurred to help you in focusing on the outcomes you want with the topical area you have in mind. Do recognize that the *debriefing* you use following the activity will change to focus on the outcomes that you desire from your group.

The design of this kit has been to provide you with everything you need to present this building activity to your audience. There are some consumable pieces included. The only “cost” for using this kit is to return it as it was when you received it and to complete the enclosed evaluations. As you use balloons, paper cups or any other throw-away item, it is expected that you will supply the kit with these items for the next person who borrows the kit. Who knows, the next person may be yourself or the person who works next to you! The planning committee for this project has tried to make this kit as user friendly as possible, but will need your cooperation so the kit continues to be useful to every person who borrows it. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Evaluation

A part of the “cost” for using this kit is to complete the evaluation forms. There are participant evaluations that will need to be returned for each person who was a part of the event and a facilitator evaluation that will need to be returned (one) by the event facilitator.

Guidelines for Use

1. Review the entire kit and choose a topical area for focus. The assessment activities were included to help you in selecting an area for focus.
2. Choose the activity (or series of activities) that will focus on the concern or area of enhancement you want to address.
3. Review the procedures for the activity and select the materials needed from the kit. Practice the activity if desired.
4. Conduct the activity (or activities) with the group.
5. Ask group members to complete participant evaluations.
6. Complete the facilitator evaluation.
7. Put all completed evaluations in the file marked "completed evaluations".
8. Return all procedure sheets, props and evaluations to the kit.
9. Return the kit promptly to The Ohio State University Extension office from which it was borrowed.

Help in Using the Kit

If you need help in using the activities in the kit, contact one of the Extension Agents at your local office of Ohio State University Extension. Please find a listing of all Ohio offices on one of the following pages, along with local telephone numbers.

You are also welcome to contact one of the developers of the kit as follows:

Barbara Brahm	Extension Educator, Family and Consumer Sciences, Hancock County (419) 422-3851
Beth Flynn	Extension Associate, Leadership Education OSU Extension Leadership Center (614) 292-3114
Nancy Stehulak	Extension Educator Family and Consumer Sciences, Henry County (419) 592-0806

***Have fun as you take on the challenge of
"Building Dynamic Groups"!!!***

This project was funded with team development funds provided through the State Community Development Program of Ohio State University Extension. Thank you for your support of our project.

All materials were reviewed for publication by Dr. Chester J. Bowling, Extension Specialist, Community Leadership and Management, Ohio State University Extension.

All educational programs conducted by Ohio State University Extension are available to clientele on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, gender, age, disability or Vietnam-era veteran status. Keith L. Smith, Director, Associate Vice President for Ag. Admin. and Director, OSU Extension.

TDD# 1-800-589-8292 (Ohio only) or (614-292-1868)

A Complete Listing Of Activities in the Series

Introduction and Evaluation – (Gray)

1. Introduction Letter
2. Complete Listing of Activities
3. Complete Listing of OSU Extension Offices
4. Participant Comments
5. Facilitator's Evaluation

Assessment – (Blue)

1. All Over the Map
2. A Collaboration Checklist
3. The Spider Web
4. A Way out of the Activity Trap
5. Planning for the Future of Your Organization

Ice Breakers – (Red)

1. Are You More Like...
2. Are You Really Looking at Me?
3. Data Processing
4. Feeling Hands
5. Front Lean
6. Giants, Wizards and Elves
7. Imaginary Ball Toss
8. Incorporations
9. Knee to Knee
10. Let's Talk
11. Levitation
12. Partner Interview
13. The Number Game
14. The One-Minute Praise
15. Weather Forecast
16. What's in (on) a Penny?
17. Who Are You?

Facilitation – (White)

1. Brainstorming – A Useful Technique for Generating Ideas
2. Case Studies
3. Fish Bowl Activity
4. Games Teams Play – The Book
5. Multi Voting
6. Nominal Group Technique
7. Open Space Technology
8. Paired Comparisons
9. Story Boarding
10. Town Meeting

Visioning – (Yellow)

1. Appreciative Inquiry
2. Building An Organizational Vision
3. Lincoln Log Activity
4. The Black Spot
5. A Values and Visioning Exercise

Collaboration – (Green)

1. Coat of Arms
2. Diversity Cards
3. Group Sit
4. Human Knot
5. Magic Carpet Ride
6. Swamp Island Maze
7. Values Name Tag

Communication – (Goldenrod)

1. Back to Back
2. Broken Squares
3. Bull Ring
4. Dolphins and Killer Whales
5. Do Your Best
6. Drawing Bugs
7. Giants, Wizards and Elves
8. One Up, One Down
9. Telephone
10. Towers
11. Words Alone

Team Building – (Orange)

1. Animal Description
2. Candy Corn Craze
3. Group Juggling
4. Habits and Expectations
5. Marble Pass
6. Sherlock Exercise
7. Stump Jumping
8. Towers
9. Win As Much As You Can