Short & Snappy—
Learning Opportunity for Volunteers

Building the Perfect Team

Working as a team, with parents, other volunteers, your service unit, etc., takes more than just coming to a meeting; it takes a common goal, sharing of ideas, and building a bond. Teams are great editors and help to mold and shape ideas. However, working as an individual before joining the team can help make teamwork more focused and productive. When all members of the team try to do an entire project from start to finish as a team rather than beginning to brainstorm as individuals, it can be frustrating.

So how do you learn to work as a team and work to be the best team you can be? Try out our “name that cookie” game below. It helps to highlight both the advantages and disadvantages of working as a team.

Name That Cookie Game:

Divide into two teams, Group A and Group B. Each member in Group A should have a pen and paper. There should be one pen and several sheets of paper for Group B. The focus is on quantity, not quality. Both groups will be given a total of 10 minutes. What differs is how each group generates the list! Read the following (false) statement to all.

“GSUSA has decided to change the name of Samoa cookies. Help them by coming up with as many names as possible.”

Group A: The members should work individually for 5 minutes, then work as a group for 5 minutes. When working as a group, members should eliminate duplicate from their lists. There should be one secretary when working as a group and no one should work as an individual during the last 5 minutes.

Group B: The members should work as a group for 10 minutes. At no time should anyone work individually. There should be one secretary recording the results.

Results: Have the groups total the number of names. In most cases, Group A will produce more names than Group B. Talk about how teams can be helpful because they maximize, shape and mold individual ideas. However, if you work solely as a team, people are less likely to talk and the process can be frustrating. Discuss similar situations and how this exercise can help girls and adults work as a team. If Group B produces more names, try to figure out why. Did members work as individuals? Did one or two people dominate?

T (together) E(everyone) A(achieves) M(more)