

JA Trades

The Team Challenge Volunteer Guide

Ask students if businesses can function with only one person. Discuss.

Explain that when we think of teamwork and team players, we generally think of people working together on a football field, basketball court, or in some other sport. However, teamwork and being a team player are key skills required in nearly all workplaces.

Most jobs require working with others, and companies are looking to hire employees who understand and contribute to high-performance teams.

Tell students that they will conduct a team-building exercise called *The Team Challenge*. They will discover the value of teamwork and rate the performance of their team. This is the kind of teamwork employers want to see in the workplace.

Before the Build:

- Organize students into teams of three, four, or five.
- Give each team the team-building kit containing 25 index cards, 25 paper clips, and a *Team Challenge* poster.
- Review the *GRPI High-Performance Team Criteria* with the students.
- Ask the teams to read the instructions on the poster. Answer any questions.
- Ask students to plan how their team will win the challenge.
- Make sure each team has a flat surface to build its structure.
- Build the structure.

After the Build:

- Announce “Time’s Up” when 5 minutes are left in the session.
- Ask each team to rate their team using the *GRPI High-Performance Team Criteria* by circling the rating on the poster that matches their performance during the competition.
- If time allows, ask each team to score their structure as a group using the *Team Challenge Scoring Guide* to ensure all requirements are met.
- Ask teams to protect their structure through the judging process.
- If time allows, score each team’s structure using the Scoring Guide and record the score on each team’s poster, the teams will rate their teamwork based on GRPI criteria and
- Announce the winner.

Discuss:

Ask students to reflect on their team’s performance.

- Was their team a high-performance team, based on the GRPI criteria? Or did their team have some members who did more than their share or didn’t contribute at all?
- Is there anything they could have done better as a team that would have led to a different outcome in the challenge?