

## **Activity: Scavenger Hunt**

**Addresses:** Teamwork

**Aims/Intended Learning Outcomes:** Great team bonding exercise that helps break up formal cliques by encouraging people to work with colleagues from other teams, departments, or just social circles. To introduce future teammates to each other, and to help people understand their own team working styles. Also to show how teams function most effectively.

**Time required:** 1 hour minimum, but adjustable.

**Group size:** Two or more small groups

**Context/setting:** In the classroom - On the campus - In the Halls of Residence - Outdoors

**Description:** Break the group into teams. Make a list of goofy tasks for each team to do as a group. Tasks can include taking a selfie with a stranger, taking a picture of a building or object around your place, university, to get a tube of Colgate Total toothpaste, or a bottle of cream containing alpha-hydroxyl acids, etc. Give the list to each team, along with a deadline by which they must complete all tasks. Whoever completes the most tasks the quickest, wins! (You can even create your own point system according to task difficulty if you want!)

Key points to explain to your audience: • Explain that working as a team can be a different experience, • Highlight that the first step in forming as a team involves getting to know each other; this game is designed to give participants a chance to begin to work together and to have fun. • Explain that this game will also help illustrate some of the issues involved in working in teams.

**Materials needed:** Pen and Paper, Scavenger hunt instructions and the list of items for each team to hunt for (see Attachment 1 for an example), and a small prize for the winning team

**Inspired by:** <http://nationalqualitycenter.org>

This game comes from "Games Trainers Play, by Edward E. Scannell and John W. Newstrom ("New York: McGrawHill, 1980, p. 51). Sources for additional information about teams include Joiner & Associates The Team Handbook and Meredith R. Belbin's Management Teams, Why they Succeed or Fail.

**Any other comments:** Key concepts:

- Having a clearly understood goal is critical to team performance.
  - Teams work best when tasks are divided among members.
  - Creativity can help solve problems.
- use this section to add any other comments