

SDSCA Newsletter

DEC 2023

Below you will find 7 unique Christmas team building games. Some of these are quick and easy, needing little to no setup. Some may take more time to prepare and execute.

Also, keep in mind that you will probably have to change things around for your team if it's really small or really large.

You will find some kind of team building activity to fit your needs.

team up into groups.

On one side of the room, hang up empty stockings

On the other side of the room, set up bowls of candy with spoons.

Set a time and have each team try to put the most candy in their stocking using the spoons.

The team with the most candy wins. (you can either weigh the stocking or do it by eye.

***Add a twist to teach the importance of planning and communication.**

Have them do this game without giving them any time to communicate before you start, or don't allow any verbal communication throughout the activity. Then measure out the stocking once done.

Then have them repeat the challenge giving them a few minutes before to create a game plan and allow them to communicate throughout the process. In the end, measure out the stocking.

See if there was a difference in the candy.

Ask questions about whether it was easier or harder with a plan and communication.



I just want to take a

minute to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year! May you find yourself surrounded by family and friends now and thru out the up coming year! Thanks for all that you do for everyone!

“
What is Christmas?
It is tenderness for
the past, courage
for the present,
hope for the future.

AGNES M. PAHRO



RAINDEERS, ELVES, AND SANTAS

(A fun way to energize your team before a meeting or event)

This game is very similar to the Bears, Cowboys, and Ninjas. Except we have switched out the characters for Christmas.

This game is just like paper, rock, scissors. Each player must choose between three poses (makeup poses in advance). raindeers run over elves, elves hide cookies from Santas, and Santas rein in raindeers. Have each person find a partner. Line up back to back with your partner and think about which character you will pose as. When you're ready, count out and take three steps away from each other.

On three, strike a pose!



THE CHRISTMAS STOCKING RACE

(A great way to get your team up and going)

Depending on its size, divide your team up into groups.

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SECRET SANTA MILLIONAIRES

(A creative and fun way for team members to interact and share with each other)

Sure, you can totally do a normal Secret Santa at your next gathering, but why not change it up? Check out how the millionaires' version works.

IN ADVANCE Have all your team members pull names out of a hat to have a Secret Santa (a person they will purchase a gift for).

Tell your team to think of what they would buy their secret Santa if they had to use up 1 million dollars for them. But give a price limit, for example... \$10 or \$20.

An example gift would be:

1 Million Dollar Gift – A Yacht to Travel the World

\$10-\$20 Gift – A passport sleeve and compass

On the day of the exchange, ensure that the giver shares with everyone what the million-dollar gift



SNOWFLAKE CHALLENGE

(A great way for team members to learn the importance of following instructions)

Pass out a piece of paper to each team member.
(you can make this festive by passing out red and green paper)

Have each team member close their eyes or blind-fold them.

Now out loud, go through the instruction on how to make a snowflake with the paper you have given to them.

Steps to Make a Snowflake

Fold your paper in half.

Fold it in half again.

Tear off the top right corner.

Fold your paper in half length-wise.

Tear off the bottom left corner.

Rotate your paper.



WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

(A very fun and creative way for team members to express their creativity)

White elephant gift exchanges are all-around fun. It may not seem like a team building activity, and in some ways, it's not, but it does teach YOU as a leader and teaches your team members about each other.

You will see who is competitive, who strategizes to get the gift they want, who's a sore loser, who's content with whatever, and so on.

IN ADVANCE – Tell your team members about the white elephant gift exchange.

Each team member brings a gift (wrapped) at the event or meeting. (it's advisable to set a price limit. Not fun to get a \$3 gift and when you have given a \$35)

Then have each person draw a number from a hat. (put as many numbers as gifts/people)

Have everyone place all the gifts in one big pile and sit around in a circle around the pile. To make things WAY easier, you can have them sit according to their number.

The first player selects a gift from the pile and opens it in front of everyone.

The following player can choose a new gift from the pile or steal the gift the first player opened.

If the gift is stolen, then the person who lost the gift must go back to the pile to pick a new one or steal from another person.

Then the following person either steals or picks a new

Then the following person either steals or picks a new gift.

After everyone has had a turn, the first player gets a chance to steal a gift or keep the one they have. If they do steal, they swap with the gift they already have. The game is over.

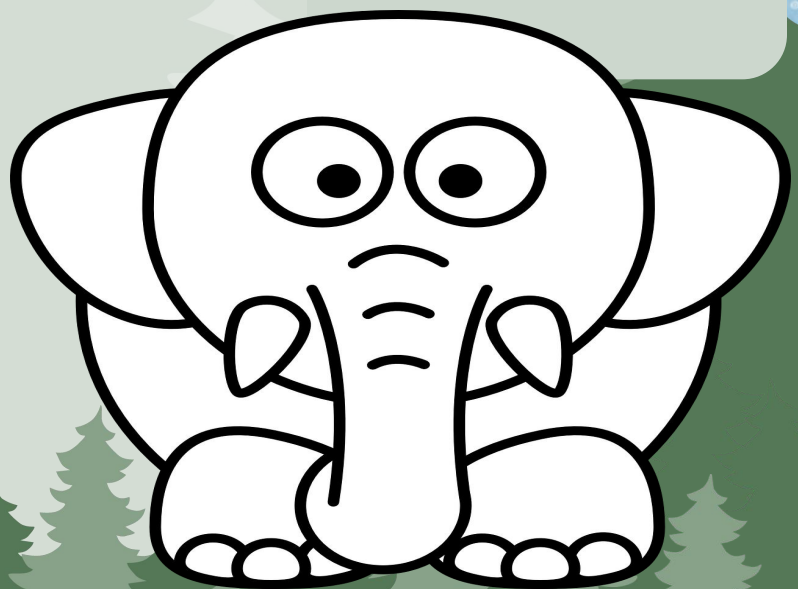
Gift Stealing Limits and Rules

To keep the game moving and make it more interesting, here are some rules about stealing gifts.

A gift can only be stolen once per turn, which means players who have a gift stolen from them have to wait to get it back.

After a gift has been stolen three times, it becomes frozen, and no longer can it be stolen.

***Remember, you can make a white elephant exchange really creative. Set price limits or have a theme for the gifts!**



THE TOY FACTORY

(An interactive way for your team to practice communication, creative process, and planning)

Prepare boxes or bags of random items with a hot glue gun and/or duct tape. Each box or bag can have different or the same items

Have your team break up into groups. Hand them a box/bag

Tell them they have 20min to create a toy or toys out of those random items given.

Once the time is up, have each team share their toy creations. Have them answer the 5 Ws.

Have the groups vote on who has the best toy/toys.

The 5 Ws

Who is this toy geared towards?

What is the purpose of the toy?

When would a child want to play with it? Is it age-specific?

Where would they play with this toy?

Why is your toy the best?

JINGLE ALL THE WAY SCAVENGER HUNT

(A great way for your team to use communication, problem-solving, time management, and strategizing skills.)

Scavenger hunts can be very simplistic or complicated. It all depends on what you are going for. They also can stay within the building you are in or have your team go outside (even into town)

Here is a simple version.

Have your team break up into groups.

Give each group Christmas stockings to fill up with their finds.

Then hand them a list of items, challenges, or riddles that must be found or completed within a set amount of time (remember to make them Christmas themed.)

The goal is to find all the items, or complete all the challenges, on the list.

The team who found the most items is the winner.