

Teambuilding Tips



Here's the scenario: Groups of people are put together in teams for a year to accomplish a specific goal or complete an assignment, sounds like a new reality based television show? Well, it might easily be, but in reality it's what happens every year when DECA members come together to form chapter or state/provincial action teams. With every member's varying thoughts and ideas going into one assignment, things can get tough; with good teamwork and strong leadership, successful and efficient teams are created. It's natural to have high and low times within a group; hopefully with the knowledge gained you can help to decrease the amount of downtime.

When building your team the most important thing to remember is to communicate. Building communications between every member helps establish friendships amongst the team and can allow for better teamwork when combined in a professional decision making environment. Day-to-day e-mails or weekly phone calls keeping in touch with the team members allows for venting of any concerns or situations amongst the team. Strong communication can initiate growth for the team and help everyone to succeed.

Why should activities between you and your team only take place at DECA events? If possible get together for lunch, dinner, or even a movie. Spending a little extra time with the team outside of DECA helps build communications. After so much e-mail and phone conversations an actual get together can help build upon what has already been established. It's important to remember, however, that you must invite everyone everytime, even if you know that a team member cannot attend. That way if situations change and the person now has the availability to attend, he or she is not left feeling separated from the team.

With any group of people there are certain things that can be done to avoid conflict. In a working environment such as an officer team, these precautions need to be noted. Of course, everyone has their own opinion; there remains certain subjects that prove too controversial for conversation. Lucky for us all of these subjects are not related to DECA and can usually be avoided. At the start of the year establish any personal subjects that the team feels should be avoided.

If a team event is happening, try to be there; your attendance at any team event is important, even if it is just a night out at the movies. Showing up to outside events can help further establish your commitment to a successful year as an officer team. If problems come to surface, propose a meeting of the team after each day at conferences. The meeting will serve as an area for the team to vent any problems from the day; this will help clear up any tension and resolve conflicts before they hinder the team's performance.

What will be expected from your team is that the entire team will get along. For the most part the team will get along. The important thing to remember is to always include every team member, resolve any problems before the team starts the next day, and have fun! You were elected to an officer position and working along side dedicated people like yourself. Make the most of the year and keep your team strong.