

Character Challenge



Supporting your partner, Zip lining to new heights, getting to know others and conquering fears are not the only objectives of classic team building exercises.

How to create a Championship Team

Leading a team has never been easy. Learning and implementing a few important tools can revolutionize all types of organizations.

Gossip. Envy. Pride. Misunderstanding. Sounds like the makings of a best selling novel right? What it doesn't make is a best selling team. Ineffective teams come in all shapes, sizes, ages and abilities. To form a competent one, all a group needs is to be organized. To form a championship team, people need strong leadership, chemistry, and undeniable determination.

All teams operate under the same principles. Champions have a similar pedigree. They are unified, share a common vision, communicate clearly, and are passionate. We're not only talking about the corporate world. These rules hold true for executives, Boy Scouts, college athletes, faith-based organizations, students and more. Willing to expand your leadership, improve group



dynamics, and form a Championship Team? Read on....

What is a Championship Team? We find examples of teams everywhere, but what makes the good ones stand out? Is it having the most talent? Certainly, talent doesn't hurt and is often required to reach the top. But we argue that it is not a pre-requisite. In 1990, the Minnesota Twins baseball



Championship Teams Share:

- Commitment to common goal
- Proven Leadership
- Unity
- Strong Communication

team owned the worst record in their division. How, might you ask, did they go on to be the winner of 95 games and a division championship the following year with virtually the same roster? Unity. What guided these 25 men was the fact that they bought into a core set of principles and exhibited one shared purpose. Their success wasn't luck or raw talent. Their raw talent led them to finish last. Chemistry and a deep bench led them to win the World Series in 7 games.

A Championship Team achieves what it sets out to achieve. It may not always mean finishing first, but these people become self-actualizers. They will reach their fullest potential. The tools to get there are simple, but committing to these principles is not.

Unity

"Team Building" in some circles, is passé. Call it whatever term you want, but in order to be a Champion, your team must develop relationships. They must be unified.

What causes a breakdown in unity? Dave Ramsey, in his book *EntreLeadership* sums it this way: "Your team will only be unified when they are willing to give up personal glory or gain for the good of each other and the good of the cause." It is critical to establish rewards and recognition for achievement, but to look at it through the lens of the team's goals. Champions realize that all members of their team are equally important, and that all great teams have great depth (remember the '91 Twins?)

Teams diverge for any number of reasons. Keeping a team unified takes intentional decision making by its members.

Strong Communication

Presidential politics provides countless examples to follow when it comes to strong communication. It also gives us things to avoid. Comments like "47%", "Read my lips", and "Ooops" were never intended to do harm, but eventually became punch lines of unsuccessful campaigns.





Trust.
Leadership.
Passion.
Dedication.
How to bring
these traits to
your team?

To become president, a tightly knit team is formed around a vision. Through various channels, this vision takes shape and is communicated to the masses. Presidents are masters of communication. They realize the impact and importance of their words and work hard to avoid silly mistakes. Championship Teams operate the same way. They have figured out that the only way to communicate is directly. They have a culture of open, honest conversation and understand that strategic planning may be required. Having uncomfortable conversations will undoubtedly be necessary.

Passion

In grade school and beyond, students have the opportunity to learn from Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I have a dream" speech. In inspirational prose, King set a vision for the civil rights movement in America. His passion and leadership changed the lives of millions and the soul and direction of our country.

King's team was created not only with strategy, but with uncommon passion. King was able to grow this movement through authenticity and for his knack to be impromptu. In fact, when King was about half ways through his famous speech, he felt that he had not connected with the 250,000 people in attendance. His

response? He went unscripted, speaking from his heart and changing the course of history while inspiring his team in immeasurable ways.

The Greek origin of the word passion is *paskho*, which means "to suffer". Champions suffer not just for themselves, but for the mission, the cause, their teammates, and their leader.

Champions' Tasks

To create the TEAM that you desire, consider:

1. Creating or planning meaningful team-building activities that improve your keys to success.
2. Writing a short story or poem telling your vision. Narrate it to a colleague, friend or spouse.
3. Determining your group's strengths and weaknesses. Then prioritizing how to address each.

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