



Marshmallow Challenge



Group Size: unlimited

Team Sizes: 5/6 is best

Equipment Required: 1 x packet of spaghetti + 1 x bag of marshmallows + 1 x measuring tape, 1 x stop watch (preferably a large iPad or similar), piece of paper and a pen for each team.

Total Run Time: 45 minutes

Objective: The objective to the group is to construct a free standing structure using only the spaghetti and the marshmallows to a level exceeding 1 meter in height within the given time frame.

Planning: It is important to give the groups 5 minutes, a sheet of paper and a pen to plan their structure. Ask them to draw the structure and the technique they plan to use to not only make it structurally sound but allow them to reach the height required. Planning will stimulate conversation and test their listening skills. Notice the stronger personalities will start to command the teams and you may have some personalities that are happy to just follow. Enhance the conversations by asking the followers what are their thoughts. This may throw some ideas into the pool and change the dynamics of not only the structure but the conversation as well.

Construction Time: This is where they start to build and its all hands on deck! Watch them as they work together to create segments of the structure that will slowly take shape. They will need to trust in one another here to complete the given task and on time.

Measuring and Judging: When there clock gets within 2 minutes tell the group that on zero you must let go regardless. Some structures will stand and some will collapse and that is fine. This is a fun stage as the clock applies pressure to the teams and some will get anxious. On Zero the teams let go and then the measuring is done.

DEBRIEF QUESTIONS:

- How did you feel at the initial stage when the brief was given? How did you react to your feelings?
- What processes did your team adapt to plan for the challenge? Did it work? If not why?
- Did all members have equal input? Was there a member who dictated to the team? If so how did you react?
- During the building process was there a foreman? Did the team run smoothly?
- Did you achieve your goal using your initial plans? Or did you have to adapt to unknown problems that occurred? How did your team cope or react with that?

