

EXPERIENCE *the* DIFFERENCE

ARIZONA COLLEGIATE DECA

CHAPTER RESOURCES

2023-2024 Experience the Difference

DECA ACTIVITIES

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SUMMARY

As leaders in Collegiate DECA, one of the greatest responsibilities we hold is the creation and curation of content delivered to our chapters. Each chapter officer team has a unique opportunity to create a distinct brand and community at their institution.

Together, you and your officer team must decide how to answer a number of questions that will dictate the culture within your chapter. How many meetings will you have in a month? Will you focus on career development or DECA competitions? Will all content be delivered by the officer team or will member presentations be encouraged? This resource guide will have activities that you can use to engage your members have them interact with each other, therefore creating a friendly environment during your meetings.

IMPORTANCE OF ACTIVITIES

Having activities during your chapters meetings is vital to building a sense of community within a chapter. It allows your members to engage with each other while doing an activity that is unique. It also allows your chapter members to feel more confident expressing their ideas and more comfortable being around each other. Students become members of DECA because they develop friendships with each other. Additionally, activities give your members a sense of interaction to prevent your meetings from being repetitive or similar to a lecture.

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Activities for Everyone In A Meeting

- **Bang:** Start by electing a sheriff and having the rest of the group stand in a circle around them. The sheriff spins around and points at one person in the circle and says “bang!” That person then crouches as quickly as possible. The two people on either side of the person crouching must quickly point at each other and shout the other’s name. Whoever does not react quick enough is eliminated.
- **Snowball:** Start by asking a question relevant to your group and ask each participant to write an answer on a piece of paper. Once that’s done, invite everyone to crumple their paper and come to the center of the room to have a snowball fight! After a few minutes, ask everyone to keep a snowball and find the person who wrote the answer. Not only does this team building exercise invite energy into the room, but it encourages people to get to know each other too.
- **Count Up:** Simple tasks that require team focus, cohesion, and awareness are great for any group working on team building. In Count Up, a team has to come together and count up to twenty with their eyes closed and without any other communication. People cannot say more than one number at a time, and if two people speak at the same time, the group must start over.
- **Open Fist:** Finding you have things in common with other team members is one of the cornerstones of effective teamwork. While conversation games or other team building activities might require an in-depth approach, Open Fist helps teams bond with a simple, effective activity. Sharing little known facts about ourselves can help teams be more cohesive and by limiting the number of shared facts to the amount of fingers on a hand, this quick team building activity can fit into an agenda with ease.
- **Photo Scavenger Hunt:** Take pictures around an area and put them in a file. Then share with teams to find the location of where the pictures were taken. The first team with all the correct locations and to return to the meeting room wins!

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- **Group Order:** Supporting the get-to-know process at the start of a session or with a new team can be as simple as asking participants to group themselves together based on what they know about each other and inviting them to find out what they don't. This team building activity requires nothing more than getting your group together in a room and asking them to line themselves up in an order based on a criterion such as distance from home to the workplace, birth date in the calendar year or number of different countries visited. You'll be surprised at how easy it is to get people talking and sharing when in pursuit of a common goal.
- **Art Contest:** Hold an art contest with each person creating a painting and bring it to the meeting to be judged and displayed. All of your members will have a great time choosing their favorite and you will get a lot of good ideas out of it.
- **Categories:** You will start with a category and go around naming something that fits into the category- but if you hesitate or repeat, you are out! The category changes every round. You can keep playing until there is just one remaining, or end after a certain amount of rounds.
- **Impromptu Speeches:** In a hat, a box, or on a table, set out slips of paper with topics on them. Members will each take turns giving 30 second speeches about the topic they pull. This game is great for public speaking. For an extra catch, you can bring some pennies and a jar and have someone drop a penny into the jar every time your speaker uses a pause word.
- **Guess Who:** Everyone writes a fun fact about themselves (this can be as an online submission, on a piece of paper, on a post it note, etc.) and the group has to guess who the fun fact belongs to.
- **Would You Rather Debates:** Ask would you rather questions, and tell members to go to the side of the room that aligns with their preferences. This game is also fun when you allow members to stand in the middle. You can then ask two or so members from each side to defend their viewpoint.

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Activities For Teams

- **Cross the Circle:** Cross the circle in response to questions posed by a person in the middle. For example, "Cross through the circle if you have worked here more than 5 years." or "Cross through the circle if you can play an instrument." After each stage, a new person gets to pose a question and your team gets to know one another and their commonalities in a simple, effective way.
- **Portrait Gallery:** Creative team building activities are great for breaking the ice or energizing a team. In Portrait Gallery, you and your team will collaboratively create portraits of everyone in the group and have a fun, eclectic set of portraits to display afterwards. Start by splitting your group into two teams. Team B will draw portraits of Team A, though every 10-15 seconds, they'll pass their current drawing to the next person to continue. By the end of this team building game, you'll have a set of eclectic portraits for everyone in the group and have broken the ice significantly too!
- **The Four Quadrants Activity:** Sometimes pictures are better than words when it comes to helping a team get to know one another. Creative games like this one can also be especially effective at helping introverts or distanced teams share with the group. Start by inviting each participant to draw a 2x2 grid and pose four questions to the group. Each team member draws their answer in one of the grid squares and after a period of individual work, invites the group to share. If you're looking for a fun team building game that is visual and memorable, look no further!
- **Blind Square – Rope Game:** Nothing energizes a team workshop like a seemingly simple problem that also gets everyone moving and engaged. In this team problem solving game, start by tying a length of rope into a circle and invite the participants to plan how to make the rope into a square while blindfolded. After planning time, the group is blindfolded and has ten minutes to form the square. By debriefing afterwards, your group will find communication, planning and attention to detail are all important aspects of team problem solving – all while having fun too!

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- **Cover Story:** Expansive thinking and imagination can play a large part in defining your team values and vision. By thinking up the ideal future state for the organization and envisioning the best possible version of your team and product, you then have touchpoints for taking action today. In this creative team building game, invite participants to imagine that your organization or team has made the front cover of a popular magazine. Ask your team to then populate the future cover story with the best case scenario and add headlines, quotes and images. By then debriefing on common ideas and themes, you can start to move towards realizing that future as a group!
- **Low-Tech Social Network:** Map the connections between team members on a whiteboard. Teams create their "avatars", then draw lines to show how they know other team members. This can work great as an ice-breaker at events where teams don't know each other well, and allows them to find things they all have in common.
- **Spectrum Mapping:** Map the diversity of perspectives on a topic by organizing them into a spectrum. This can unearth innovative ideas and show the diversity of opinions within a team. It can also encourage people with unconventional views who otherwise won't speak up to participate.
- **Blindfolded Drawing:** One member of your group will have drawing tools (whether that be pen and paper, marker and whiteboard, etc.), and the rest of the group members will be looking at a picture. The person drawing is not allowed to see the picture, and the rest of the group is not allowed to see the drawing. The group members looking at the picture must verbally describe to the drawer what they should be putting on the paper. The group that has the final drawing closest to the original wins! This game is best played with a time limit.
- **The Skit Game:** Each team will make and present a skit based on a prompt. Whether the prompt is the same or different is up to you! This game is best played with time limits and generally sets an uplifting mood in meetings, so it might be good to play during meetings in the stressful time of the academic year.

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Activities For Individuals or Pairs

- **Creating a Secret Handshake:** By moving between pairs and teaching others the steps of your handshake, this also helps create group closeness and cohesion. We love team building activities or office games that encourage people to bring a little of themselves to the table and Build-a-Shake is a great example of that!
- **Selfie Bingo Time:** Take a picture with certain people that are described by titles, work, major, etc. everyone in the room and have them sign their signature
- **3 Question Mingle:** Conversation is often the best starting point when it comes to team building, but without structure it can be difficult for groups to get moving. In 3 Question Mingle, each team member writes three questions on post-it notes and then has a one minute meeting with another person. They each ask another one question and then trade those post-its. Invite the group to move around the room asking questions in pairs and swapping questions afterwards.
- **Happiness Exercise:** Good teams know how to appreciate one another and share joyful, happy experiences. When a new team is getting to know each other, using a team building exercise that encourages the sharing of positive stories and experiences not only allows people to connect but also builds a positive atmosphere in the room
- **Back of the Napkin:** Draw the solution to a problem on the back of a napkin, like all entrepreneurs of legend. Teams will have to work together and solve problems creatively for this game to work.

References:

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