



Together **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore
Team Building Activity



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Introduction

FIRST LEGO League teams should use this team building activity at the first or second meeting to help team members become comfortable with each other and prepare to work together. Team members should begin to feel they are a part of a working team and realize that each member has something unique to contribute.

This activity is designed to:

- Establish a safe environment where team members are comfortable with each other
- Allow team members to open up and take risks within this environment
- Provide recognition for each team member of their own value to the team
- Start team members collaborating together
- Plant a seed towards growing team spirit

Coach Preparation

- Begin to learn team members' names before you meet them: quick name recognition is very motivational for team members.
- For optional banner activity: Prepare markers or colored pencils and a large piece of blank paper or poster board that is big enough for all the team members to draw on at once.

Leading the Activity



Start by explaining that you will be asking some questions and everyone will share his or her answer with the team.



Choose, or allow the team to choose, one person to write down everyone's answers to the questions. Have this person make a list of everyone's names with space after each person's name for the answers.



Ask question one: What is your favorite and least favorite food?

Answer Example: Cheese pizza and spinach



Ask question two: What is something special and unique about yourself that no one else on the team knows about you?

Answer Example: In 2nd grade I won the paper airplane contest



Ask question three: What do all team members have in common? How many things can you come up with? Try to think of things that are only true about your team, and not other teams. And no, that you are all on the same team does not count! Try for the most detail possible.

Answer Examples: Everyone on the team thinks roller coasters are the best kind of amusement park ride.

Everyone on the team has a pet with black fur and it comes when called.

WHY

Why start with food preferences?

This is a safe topic to begin on to get everyone talking, the beginning of a safe environment. You could substitute another safe topic, such as favorite and least favorite movie.

WHY

Why something unique about everyone?

Everyone needs to feel he or she has something to contribute to the team. If a team member has difficulty, try prompting them with ideas: places he or she has been, siblings, or favorite things.

WHY

Why find something the same about everyone on the team?

In the process of searching for something that is the same across the team, everyone will learn about teammates as well as find something that connects the team. This information can be a great starter to find a team name that fits.



Ask question four: What name would your team like? If you already have a team name, decide on a team slogan. You may want to think about some of the things you discovered were the same about everyone.

*Answer Examples: The Roller Coaster Rockers
The Jefferson County Cats and Dogs*



Optional activity: Draw a banner for your team.

Everyone gather around the large piece of paper and draw something for the banner. The team should choose one or more members to write the team name across the banner and everyone else can draw pictures related to the team name on a part of the paper. Each person can also write his or her own name on the banner. When you go to an event, this banner can be held high for team pride!

Next steps for the team:

- After kickoff, the team can divide up the playing field components and work together to assemble them. You may want to print out copies of the instructions ahead of time.
- If the team has not yet decided on roles and responsibilities within the team this is a good time to do so. More information is available in the FLL Team Manual.
- Practice practice practice! Use the training activity from the website to train the team in programming skills.