

Sponge Brigade

Activities to Get Groups Moving

ICEBREAKERS AND TEAM BUILDERS TO BUILD COMMUNITY

OBJECTIVES

- To work together in teams
- To practice problem solving in a competitive environment

MATERIALS

- Twelve sponges
- Six buckets
- Painter's tape

SETUP

- Make a "fill to" line on the inside of three buckets using painter's tape.
- Fill the other three buckets full of water.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Have participants form **three groups**. You should have **five to eight people** in each group.
2. Have each group **form a line** that faces forward.
3. **Place a bucket filled with water** at the **front** of each line.
4. **Place an empty bucket behind** the last person in each line.
5. **Give** the person at the front of each line **four sponges**.
6. Explain to the group that **the goal of the game is to be the first team to fill their bucket with water up to the tape line** on the inside of the bucket.
7. The first person in the line will **dunk** the sponge in the bucket and then pass the sponge to the person behind them (*they can pass the sponge over their head, under their legs, etc.*).
8. Each person in line will **continue to pass** the sponge backward until it reaches the last person in line, who will **wring** the sponge out over the bucket.

CONTINUED



Sponge Brigade continued

9. The teams should then **pass the sponge forward** and **repeat** the process until the bucket is **filled to the line**.
10. If the bucket is overfilled, the team should **remove** some of the water using the sponge or by splashing the water out. If they take out too much water, they must **send the sponge back to the front**, until the water **hits the tape line exactly**.
11. While the teams are passing the sponges, **any sponge that hits the ground will be eliminated**, leaving the team with fewer sponges to fill their bucket.
12. You can **play multiple rounds** of this game, having the first person move to the end of the line each time so everyone is in a new position.

VARIATION: Have participants remove shoes and sit on the grass. Have participants pass the sponge using their feet and not their hands.

DEBRIEF

- What was fun about this activity?
- What skills did you use in this activity?
- What strategies did you try?