



# CREATING A STRONG GREEN FLAG TEAM

## Group Ice Breakers

Starting a group can be the hardest part of group work. At your first team meeting, try some icebreaker activities to allow team members to feel more comfortable with one another. Try one of the icebreakers below, or use one of your own. Remember, while developing teamwork and problem solving skills, you are allowed to have some fun!

- **Two Truths and a Lie:**  
Have each team member say two true things and one false thing about themselves. The group then tries to guess which statement was a lie.
- **Famous Pairs:**  
Tape the names of famous pairs and couples to each group member's back. Then, have everyone try to find their famous match by asking yes or no questions.
- **Interviews:**  
Have each team member interview the person next to them for 5 minutes, and then introduce that team member to the rest of the group.
- **The Human Knot:**  
Have the group stand shoulder to shoulder in a circle. Then, have each person put their hands into the middle of the circle and join hands with two different people. Without unclasping hands (changing hand grip is okay), try to untangle the human "knot" to reform the circle.
- **Human Bingo:**  
Fill each square on a bingo card with different objective criteria (has brown eyes, has a fall birthday, has two sisters, plays a school sport,

etc.) and make copies for everyone. Be the first to get bingo by filling the boxes with signatures of other group members who fit the criteria. Provide a prize for the winner!

## Other Things to Think About at the First Green Flag Team Meeting

Keep these helpful hints in mind when conducting your first meeting. These tips will be useful throughout the program.

1. Try to balance group conversations so that everyone's voice is heard. **Value all opinions equally**, and respect your fellow team members.
2. When the team needs advice, not information, **brainstorm ideas** for solving the problem. Groups come up with far better solutions than individuals.
3. When in a group discussion about the Green Flag Program, make sure to **remind one another** about how the team's efforts are making a difference.
4. **Organize for long-term success.** Set an ultimate goal and outline steps to follow along the way. Deciding what you want to accomplish and how you plan to do it is half the battle! Lay the groundwork and establish a formula for success!
5. **Keep the team focused** on Green Flag goals by either working together on each part of the program, or by choosing who wants to work on what.

6. **Delegate!** Make sure everyone leaves the meeting with something to do. Even if a couple of individuals could accomplish the work faster, involving everyone will invest the whole team, and help the team grow.
7. For questions relating to your program area, or to get local resources, **contact the Green Flag Program Office** at [childproofing@chej.org](mailto:childproofing@chej.org) or (703) 237-2249.

## Student Coordinators

During the course of your group work, one or two individuals may emerge as team coordinators. It is perfectly fine if no group member assumes the student coordinator role, however, it often helps to have a consistent spokesperson for communication and logistical purposes. That being said, student coordinators should...

1. Motivate fellow students to get involved in the Green Flag Program.
2. Develop student, teacher and administrative contacts that will help your school implement the program.
3. Coordinate the team to brainstorm ideas on how to improve your school environmental activities.
4. Take the lead in communicating with the school administration about team ideas and goals.
5. Stay in touch with the Green Flag Office.

★ *Record the names of your team members in your School Environment Survey and submit it to the Green Flag Office as part of the Level 1 requirements.*

