Two Lies and a Truth
Before the introductions, give each person a piece of paper and have them write down two lies and one exciting truth about themselves. Then have everyone introduce themselves by stating their name, their position, and their two lies and one truth. Others in the group write down the person’s name and try to guess which of the three statements is the truth. After everyone has had an opportunity to introduce themselves, go around the room and disclose which statements are true. The person with the most correct guesses wins a prize.

Slogan
People introduce themselves by using a slogan, popular saying, line from a song, or other familiar phrase that describes them, then explain how it relates.

Hero
People introduce themselves briefly then identify a hero they look up to and explain why.

Introduce Your Neighbor
Have people pair up and spend several minutes getting to know each other. Then have each person introduce the person they just met to the group.

Bingo
Create a bingo card where each box on the grid contains interesting facts about people who will participate in the activity. For example, “sky dives” or “has 12 children.” Hand out cards to each person in the group, and give them 10-20 minutes (depending on the size of the group) to locate the person associated with the interesting fact and write his or her name in the box. The person who completes the card first wins a prize.

Objects
Break a larger group into smaller groups of 8-10 people. Provide the groups with wild or unusual objects that they may use to describe their group. Have them make a team presentation to the large group.
Team Effectiveness Discussion

After a short discussion of team effectiveness with the total group, break up into small, mixed groups of 8-10 people to answer three key questions:

1. What would this team be like if everything went as we wanted it to? The small group comes up with 8-10 descriptors or characteristics of an ideal team or organization.

2. Where do we stand on each item on a scale of 1-5? Why do we rate items the way we do? The small group rates the organization as to how they are doing on each characteristic.

3. What are the team’s priorities for improvement? The team agrees on one or two things that, if improved, would make the most difference in the operations as a team.

The large group then convenes to share the small group work on flipcharts and compare key priorities for improvement (about 75 minutes).

Egg Delivery

The group is divided into small mixed teams of 8-10 people each. Each group is given a raw egg and access to a “central store” of materials. The objective is for each team to plan and successfully build, using the fewest materials possible, a “delivery vehicle” for safely delivering the raw egg dropped from a height of 10 feet onto a concrete surface. The groups are given about 40 minutes to plan and build and when ready, all groups convene to watch their eggs get dropped. The object is to safely deliver the egg for the lowest material cost. The facilitator then debriefs the total group with a discussion of the characteristics of effective teams and how this applies to the team. (about 75 minutes)

Desert Survival

The larger group is divided into groups of 8-10 people. The facilitator presents each group with the situation in which they were flying over a desert when their plane crashed. They are not sure where they are but they anticipate that people will search for them. They have a list of items that they can take with them to assure their survival but they have a limit on the items they can select. Individually they have 5-10 minutes to select the items they want. Then they do the same activity in smaller groups. Groups must reach consensus on each item. Then the answers are given and teams score their answer sheets. Then individuals score their answer sheets. The teams always outperform the individuals. The facilitator then debriefs the total group with a discussion of team versus individual performance and the importance of consensus decision-making. (45 minutes to 1 hour)

Newspaper Bridges

The group is divided into small teams of 8-10 people each. Each team is given two sheets of white paper and a pencil and are told they have 20 minutes to design the longest self-standing bridge they can out of newspaper (no other materials can be used). The teams are not allowed to use actual materials in the planning phase. After 20 minutes, each group gets 10 full sheets of newsprint. Teams then have 20 minutes to build the structure. At the end, the facilitator measures the length of the bridge and awards the winning team a prize. Then the group discusses characteristics of effective teams and how this applies to their organization. (75 minutes)