

FUN MIXERS FOR SINGLES RETREAT

Scavenger Hunt: Use whatever is in your wallet, purses or pockets. This game is played like an “old-fashioned” scavenger hunt, except this time the teams have to produce the items from things they have in their possession. Form teams of 6 to 8.

One person acts as the referee in the center of the room. Each team sits in a cluster, equidistant from the referee. The referee calls out an item, such as a shoestring ... and the first team to bring this item to the referee is the winner. Points are awarded to the team based on the “difficulty factor” in obtaining the items. The referee keeps score and periodically announces the score. (If one team is ahead, the referee can equalize the score by awarding a few extra points for the next item.)

Here is a list of items and suggested points. Call out one item at a time. For 1,000 points, the first team to bring to the referee: a sock with a hole in it; picture of Thomas Jefferson (on a 25-cent piece); something that smells; guy with lipstick on; baby picture; love letter; dirty comb; seal of the United States (dollar bill); used ticket; 1982 dime.

For 2,000 points, the first team to bring to the referee: eight shoestrings tied end to end; three shirts on one person backwards and buttoned up; 89 cents in change; three different-colored hair tied together; four shoes that total 29 in shoe sizes ... tied together.

For 3,000 points, the first team to bring to the referee: two people inside one shirt ... all buttoned up; one person with 4 belts, 3 shirts, and 8 socks on; first team to line up in a row according to shoe size.

For 5,000 points, the first team to bring to the referee: the whole team surrounded by a rope made out of socks.

Song Choreography: This activity will help a team work together on a project that is “group building” for themselves and entertaining for others. Form teams of 6 to 8.

Prepare beforehand slips of paper with song titles: old or new. They should be familiar and short. Gather the following props: broom, mop, bucket, an old sheet or blanket (or come up with your own). Give one slip of paper to each team and show them the props they’ll be able to use. All the teams are to quickly create a choreography or musical drama—or comedy—out of their song titles using the four props in any way they like.

After 5 or 10 minutes, call everyone together. Then, one by one, have each team put on its act before the entire group. Either the retreat leader or the leadership team could choose the best team. The competition should be judged on the basis of originality, the best use of props, and the overall production.

What’s the Product: Beforehand think of 20 well-known advertising slogans. When you are ready to play the game, read most of the slogan, leaving off the name of the product it is promoting. The participants have to supply the name. The player with the most right answers wins. Example: “Just do it.”—Nike.