

Teambuilding

LAST UPDATED

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Creating a team environment in your organization will help you work together more effectively. It will help you build a more cohesive, supportive and trusting group. The simple fact that you all have common interests creates an immediate bond, but you are still different people with different backgrounds and it is important that you get to know each other. Also, you might all have different ideas about where the organization is headed. So, it's important to get everyone working together. But how do you do that?

Set aside some time early in the year to have a meeting or a retreat. Make it at a comfortable place, bring snacks and give yourselves plenty of time to discuss the important issues. Your goals for the meeting should be to share:

- who you are
- what you think of the organization
- your expectations of the coming year in the organization

One place to start is with an icebreaker. The Student Involvement Office has a brochure with different ideas. Icebreakers can help you remember each other's names, make connections about where you are from and what your interests are and just plain have fun! Warning - some people really don't like participating in these exercises, so don't overdo it.

Something else you can do at your meeting is discuss appropriate ways to communicate in a group setting. The Leadership and Organization Development staff can help you develop some great exercises to help you create an atmosphere where your group members feel comfortable expressing their opinion.

It's important to establish an open and trustworthy environment at your initial meeting—it will determine the tone of all of your meetings throughout the year. As a student leader, it's important to model this behavior - listen, emphasize positive things, encourage feedback.

Don't stop building a team after the first meeting. There are different techniques to continue throughout the year. One idea is to plan an event as a group. The Leadership and Organization Development staff can help you as a group determine what it takes to plan an event. Brainstorm ideas for your event as a team. Form committees and delegate the different responsibilities for the event. It takes a lot of work to put on an event and it is necessary to work together to make it a success. If you have been able to lay the groundwork and establish yourselves as a good team, working on an event together will only solidify your connections.

Throughout the year, it is important that you continue to communicate, get to know each other, talk about goals and visions and most of all, keep having fun!