



Team Builder

Free the Paper Clips

Teamwork: synergy, unity, harmony, alliance

Teams with strong bonds achieve remarkable things.
Get your team in sync!

What is Free the Paper Clips?

An activity that challenges team members to work together to remove a chain of paperclips, which has been sealed inside an envelope & enclosed inside a box, and then break the chain apart using only their pencils.

Activity at a Glance

For each team you will need: 25 paper clips, 1 envelope, 1 small box, and 1 sharpened pencil for every team member.

Free the Paper Clips is one of the most challenging team-building activities around. But also one of the most fun!

Perfect for teams of 4 to 7. More than that will leave some team members on the sidelines.

Easy to play, easy to set up, and easy to facilitate.

Builds patience!
Requires communication, collaboration, and strategy.

Watch your team instantly transform into allies.

Free the Paper Clips: Step by Step

Get your Team Ready to Strategize!

1. Before the team arrives, connect 25 paper clips to form a chain. Place the chain inside an envelope and seal it. Place the envelope inside a small box. If more than one team is participating, make one box for each.
2. Divide the group into teams of four to seven members.
3. Place the box in front of the team and give each team member one sharpened pencil.
4. Using only the pencils, the team must open the box and remove the envelope from inside.
5. Then, the team must open the envelope and remove the paper clip chain. Once the chain is removed, the team must attempt to separate each paper clip from the chain. Suggested time limit is 15 minute. Teams receive 1 point for each item separated from the rest, including the box and the envelope. Bonus points given for teams who separate each clip.

Why Should Your Team do Free the Paper Clips?

Benefits Unlocked

Great challenge! Kids respond well to this fun mission. Rules are easy to explain.

Shared sense of purpose improves team's bond.

Fosters strong communication, problem-solving, and teamwork skills.

Team success depends on the ideas and contributions of all team members.

Encourages perseverance.

Fun, strategic activity that gets teams thinking while working together.

For more creative team-building activities, please visit

www.swirlandspark.com.