

GROUP ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY NAME: MARSHMALLOW TOWER

PURPOSE:

- Understand the importance of teamwork, critical thinking, collaboration and persistence.
- Understand that some shapes are stronger than others.
- Understand that even weak materials can be made stronger with good design techniques, and that distribution of mass is an important consideration when building a tower.
- Compare their model to others to understand why some models are stronger than others

TIME: 30 MINUTES

- 18 minutes for the activity
- 12 minutes to explain the activity, watch the video (optional) and reflect

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- 20 pieces uncooked spaghetti (regular, not angel hair or thin spaghetti)
- 3 ft. of string
- 1 fresh marshmallow (standard size and fresh - not stale or hard)
- 3 ft. of masking tape
- Timer or watch for 18 minute build time



DIRECTIONS:

1. Form small teams - two to four team members.
2. Distribute materials.
3. Must be free-standing (can't lean on anything), be suspended, or be anchored to the floor with tape.
4. The entire marshmallow must rest on or be attached to the top of your tower.
5. Use as much or as little of the materials as you want.
6. You can break or cut the spaghetti, tape, and string.
7. Set a timer! BUILD!
8. You have 18 minutes to build.
9. When time is up, the tower must be freestanding, as defined above.

VIDEO LINK:

[“Tom Wujec: Build a Tower, Build a Team”](#)

DISCUSS:

- How did your team function?
- What were your team's strengths?
- What were your team's frustrations?

ACTIVITY CREDITS:

Special thank you to Mahoning Valley Manufacturers Coalition (MVMC) for providing MakingOhio with this activity.



MVMC
Mahoning Valley
Manufacturers Coalition