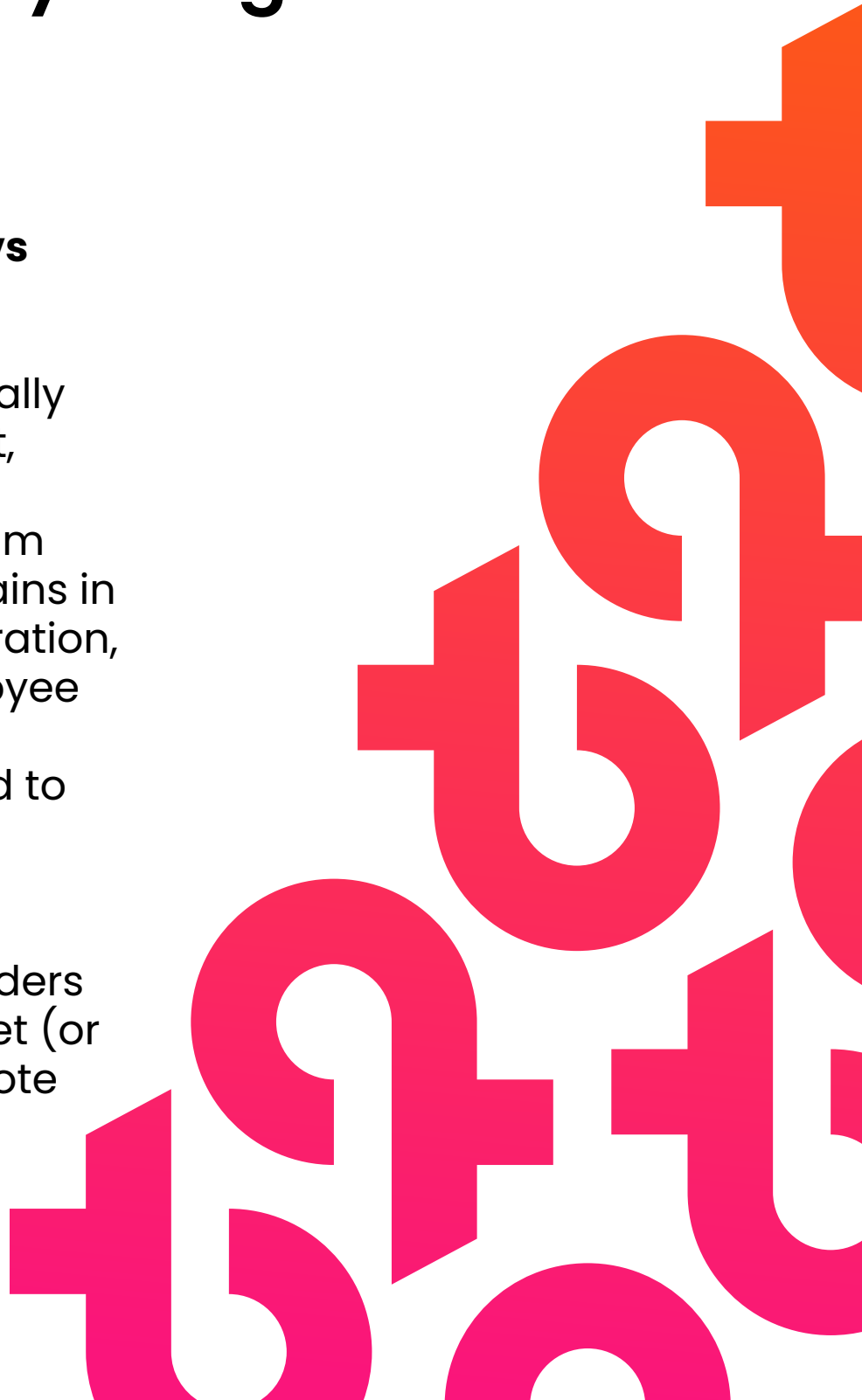# teambuilding.com

10 Team Building Ideas for Any Budget

Spend quality time vs quantity of money

Team building is usually worth the investment, because the bonds created between team members result in gains in productivity, collaboration, creativity, and employee retention. However, activities do not need to be expensive to be effective.

Here are 10 ideas leaders can do on any budget (or no budget!) to promote team bonding and camaraderie.

1 Photo album

Have teammates bring in and display personal photos. You can hang physical photos on a bulletin board or add digital photos to a cloud album. Feel free to give the albums themes like "hometown," "holidays," or "food."

2 Potluck

Team lunches don't have to be expensive. Potlucks have teams work together to create a feast, with each employee bringing a dish. These meals reveal how coworkers cook or eat and can be ways to share culture with each other. On remote teams, you can have "virtual potlucks" where you each share a recipe or bring a different dish to talk about.

3 Wellness challenge

Adopting healthy habits can be easier when you have a group trying together and cheering each other on. You can start a wellness challenge in the office. Examples include drinking a glass of water every hour, taking 10,000 steps a day, or meditating for 5 minutes a day. Just pick the wellness goal, make a spreadsheet or group chat, and have teammates share their wins every day.

4 Kudos

Kudos are a way to gather compliments. First, create somewhere employees can submit kind words about a coworker. For example, a jar of notes in the breakroom, a digital form, or a special Slack channel. Then, encourage employees to write down every time a coworker does something amazing or good-natured. At the end of each week or month, share the warm fuzzies and applaud the do-gooders!

5 Buddy chats

While socializing as a group can be beneficial, so can spending quality time one-on-one. Buddy chats pair up random coworkers to get to know each other better. Team members who want to participate sign up, then you can use a random matching generator to pair them up. Teammates have a week to find time to connect and have a casual chat. This exercise is great because teammates may need a nudge to introduce themselves or get to know a colleague better.

6 Art contest

Art contests are a great way to spark and show off your team's creativity – no money needed!

First, issue the challenge. You can decide the medium, like snapping pictures, editing photos, doodling, or painting. Or, pick a subject, like Halloween or "our retiring colleague."

Give the team time to make their masterpieces, then display the results. Have teammates vote on their favorites, then announce a winner. You can give a small prize, or simply award bragging rights!

Bonus: your office will have cool artwork.

7

Fun Slack channels

Slack and group chats are great tools for work communication, but can also be great (and free!) tools for team building. You can create team chats or channels around just-for-fun interests like TV shows, pets, or hobbies.

For instance, we have channels about makeup, cooking, plants, and learning languages!

Here are more fun Slack channel ideas.

8

Shared playlists

Music is a moving way to bring people together. Making a collaborative playlist is one of the most wallet-friendly and deeply personal team bonding activities. Simply make a playlist on a platform like Spotify, and have each teammate contribute at least one song. You can select themes for the playlist like "motivation," or "love ballads," and guess who suggested each song. Be sure to listen all together!

9

Team surveys

Most folks love answering random questions about themselves. You can create a team survey full of questions like "what was your first concert?" or "where is your dream vacation spot?" Then, post the results or spend time talking over the answers. You can play trivia to guess the answers, or create a directory of the team's responses.

10

Icebreaker questions

LIcebreaker questions are the easiest free team building ideas. Simply pick an interesting question to ask in a group chat, team email, or meeting, give each teammate a chance to answer, and spend time indulging in the natural banter that follows.