



The University of Texas at Austin College of Natural Sciences

HOLIDAY TEAMBUILDING RESOURCES FOR MANAGERS & SUPERVISORS

UT APPROVED TEAMBUILDING VENDOR

The Go Game – Games take only 45-60 minutes and players will be guided through a variety of activities to keep the energy moving and provide an opportunity for everyone to shine. During the session a Go Game host moderates the games, points out highlights and provides topical commentary. Game types include:

- Trivia
- Giphy Challenge
- Pictionary Drawing
- Head-to-Head Social Games
- Lipdub
- Fun Fact Match
- Categories
- Live Polling and Voting

Interested in hosting a Go Game for your team? Please complete the sponsorship form linked above and email Jessica Gottstein, jessica@thegogame.com to book.

DIY AND FREE HOLIDAY ZOOM GATHERING AND TEAMBUILDING OPTIONS ([source](#))

VIRTUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Schedule time for your team relax and close 2020 together before the winter break. Send each team member a mailed invitation and include a packet of hot cocoa or Chai tea to make it more festive. [Paperless Post](#) also includes some fun, free digital options. Incorporate one or many of the following elements to make the most of your time together.

ONLINE HOLIDAY TRIVIA

1. Download a holiday trivia list [HERE](#).
2. Divide the group into teams. For extra festive flair, you can ask teams to choose holiday-centric names like “The Grinches,” “Bah-Humblebrag,” or “The Wisemen.”
3. Quiz each team on holiday knowledge with seasonal questions.
4. Allow each team two minutes to discuss the answer with teammates in a separate breakout room.
5. Collect the teams’ answers on the Zoom’s private chat feature.
6. Keep score. Tally points at the end of the game. Declare a winner.

MAKE A HOLIDAY PLAYLIST

Ask your team members for their favorite holiday carol. Create a playlist for background music during team meetings or play it at a Zoom holiday gathering.

SING CNS HOLIDAY CAROLS

Spice up a Christmas Carol session with a dash of originality in the form of CNS Carols. Before a Zoom gathering, instruct team members to write their own versions of classic carols. This works best if you assign specific songs to individual or small groups. Come party time, you can enjoy hits such as “All I Want for Christmas is a Microscope” “Silent Lab” or “The 12 Experiments of Christmas.”

Pro Tip: If you really feel ambitious, compile a team carol songbook, CD, or YouTube channel afterwards.

VIRTUAL HOLIDAY DECORATING

For many working the best part of working on campus during the holidays is decking the halls and doors or trimming a tree with colleagues. While remote employees can cover desks in wrapping paper or trim the chair with garland, decorating alone is less fun. One of the best virtual team celebration ideas is to give employees a shared space to decorate. A few ideas:

- Use Instagram to make a video advent calendar. Assign each employee certain days.
- Find a virtual Christmas tree or make your own in a shared spreadsheet like GoogleSheets.
- Build a Christmas village in a game like SimsOnline.
- Make a holiday wallpaper that everyone can set as their background.
- Design fun backgrounds to use during your holiday party video call.

HOLIDAY TEAM BUILDING BINGO (QUICK & EASY)

Online Team Building Bingo is a fun and familiar game, which makes it a quick, easy and a free way to get started with virtual team building. Share the bingo board templates with your team. Decide on a timeline, which could range from a week or longer. A player gets an “x” when they learn information from a coworker that applies to the Bingo board. Thereafter, start team meetings by checking in to see if anyone has achieved 5 in a row, filled their card or is close to doing so. Up the ante by providing prizes for various phases of completion.

Download a Holiday Bingo template [HERE](#).

HOLIDAY GINGERBREAD WARS

Send your team gingerbread man or house decorating kits (Amazon has lots of options). After allowing enough time for kits to arrive and to build / decorate, schedule a team gathering on Zoom to show of your creations. Make it a competition with team voting.

Pro Tip: Recruit a celebrity judge such as a local baker or architecture faculty or student.

HOLIDAY BOOK

Ask your team members to share their favorite holiday recipe, the lyrics to their favorite holiday carol, quotes, recipes and images in an online photo album or Kudoboard.

Pro Tip: Compile all of these elements into a holiday book with a service like Shutterfly or Snapfish and send each team member a copy.

VIRTUAL SECRET SANTA

Virtual or not, no holiday party would be complete without a Secret Santa. Gift exchanges recapture the fun of spending holidays in an office. To hold a virtual office Secret Santa, you can pick names using a [gift exchange generator](#), then send presents, and wait to open gifts together at an online party. You can also use the gift exchange as an opportunity for your team to get to know each other better (and help with gift selection) by having everyone complete a brief form with their favorite things.

Download Secret Santa – My Favorite Things templates [HERE](#).

VIRTUAL HOLIDAY SCAVENGER HUNT

Online scavenger hunts are virtual holiday games worthy of any occasion. Teams scour the house and web for seasonal clues. Winter holidays are especially fun times to play, since there are so many options for unique hints both online and offline. Split your group into teams and turn the hunt into a race, or you can award points based on the originality and absurdity of the answers.

Download a Holiday Scavenger Hunt template [HERE](#).