



Literacy Builders

THE OBJECTIVE – This two-hour, team-building activity responds to the unfortunate reality that one in seven adults in the U.S. have literacy skills too low to read basic words and phrases found in children’s picture books, side effects on medications, or newspapers. The overall goal is to provide motivation and enthusiasm for reading in youth today via the assembly and donation of bookshelves for local educational facilities supporting children and literacy.

THE ACTIVITY

Teams of approximately eight to ten participants first participate in “Human Scrabble”, designed to get attendees into the literacy frame of mind. Then, teams receive their “Library Card” and work to complete difference literacy-themed challenges, such as:

- **Character-Book Match:** with a list of famous children’s books and literary classics and the main characters from those books, teammates work to match the characters with their books in a timed challenge to see who can complete the task the fastest.
- **Tower of Babel:** this full team challenge requires the entire team to build the tallest block ‘Tower of Babel’ possible in limited time.
- **Book Relay:** selected teammates walk an obstacle course while steadying literary classics on their heads in a time challenge based on speed and balance.
- **Scrabble:** teams build words with real Scrabble tiles, racking up as many points as possible in a limited timeframe.

Upon the completion of each challenge, library cards are stamped and teams inch closer to receiving all necessary materials to build one high-quality bookshelf and design and personalize ten bookmarks.

THE OUTCOME

The program concludes with announcement of the winning team/teams and of a reminder of the great local donation they’ve made in the process. Teams hear from a representative from the beneficiary organization who speaks about the organization and the long lasting donation that attendees have provided.

If possible, beneficiary children can be invited to take part in the grand finale, where they surprise the group and work together with teams to decorate the bookshelves with “handprints” stating popular children’s book titles. If desired, event staff can organize a book drive to augment the donation of bookshelves with books!



For more information, please contact your meetings and special events professional.