

The Mouse Hole

You challenge is: You are a tiny house mouse. Your family has lived here for generations.

Variations on a challenge:

Entry Level Problems:

1. Part 1 - Team brainstorms for three minutes.... Part 2 - In turn, tell the judge the story of your happiest day. One point for common answers, three points for creative answers.
2. Part 2 - In turn, tell the judge about the worst day in your life. Same point values.
3. You are the Wise Old Mouse...what advice would you give to the younger generation of mice? One minute to think...two minutes to respond.

Advanced Level Challenges:

4. It's a Mouse Party! The team may select 10 things (provided by the coach) and has four minutes to create the party favors. In Part 2 - You have three minutes to stage the party with your favors. You will be judged on the creativity of your skit, the use of the favors, and how well you all work together as a team.
5. Life in this mouse hole is getting crowded. You would like to stay close to the family, but you need your own place! The team is provided with:

- 10 toothpicks
- 2 mailing labels
- 12" of yarn
- 5 paper clips
- 1 oz of clay
- 3 cotton balls
- 5 non-flex straws
- one #10 envelope

Your problem is to build a new 'house' that is at least 6"high with a mouse hole in it. If you can roll a tennis ball through it, it will be big enough for the whole family. You will get 2 points for every inch over 6 inches high, and 10 points if you can roll the tennis ball through the hole without breaking your house. How many family members can it hold? For each family member (a ping-pong ball) that can be contained within the house, you will get an additional 3 points. You have 6 minutes to build and 2 minutes to roll the ball and add 'family members' (ping pong balls).

(Coaches: you must also provide the ping-pong balls - 12 if you have them, and the tennis ball.)