

Organizing Students into Teams

Please review the methods for grouping the students into teams. Once you have decided on how you will organize the teams, use the attached team sheet to record who is on what team.

There are several ways of organizing the students into teams of four. You can place the teams randomly by mixing the grade levels as evenly as possible across all teams. At the younger grades, students sometimes perform better in same gender teams but not necessary. If students have been practicing together and are used to working in groups, we recommend mixing boys and girls. If this competition is the first experience for most of the students, it is better to organize all boy and all girl teams or as you see fit. In grades 4th and higher we recommend mixing age, ability, and gender across all groups.

Another way to organize the teams is to place the students in groups by talents, skills, or ability. Since Team Quest is a mix of all areas of the curriculum, some teachers feel it is best to have a mix of abilities in a team. For example, a teacher may wish to structure a team with students with strengths in math, science, art, and problem solving. This way no matter what challenge the team is completing, they have someone who can be the "expert" for the group.

The final way to mix the groups is to allow the students to select their own teams. This method is not recommended until the students have had many sessions to practice their skills. Many times when students choose their teams, the focus of the team can turn from completing the task at hand to socializing. Student chosen teams should be used as a reward for many weeks of hard work and commitment to practice.