

✧ *What Makes A Team Strong?* ✧

Here are ten traits that are essential to a strong, happy team.

Trait 1: COMMITMENT

The most important trait in strong, happy teams is commitment. Commitment to the team – putting the team first – and commitment to each individual on the team in helping him or her become everything he or she can.... With commitment comes the desire to help team members reach their potential. A winning attitude is “I’ll forgo my own immediate gratification to help a team member succeed, because I know the personal joy that I experience when I help another team member.”

Trait 2: APPRECIATION

Do you let your team members know that they are appreciated? Do you give them positive attention?...Strong teams focus on the strengths of each other – not the faults.

If you think your team needs improvement in this area, try serving a compliment at each practice...“I really like the way that you...” “One of the things I like best about you is...” “You make me happy when you...” “You have real talent when it comes to...”

“You make me proud when you...”

Trait 3: TIME TOGETHER

Healthy teams enjoy being together. They work together, play together, and enjoy leisure times together. They may be very busy, but they...plan time together.

Trait 4: COMMUNICATION

To understand each other, a team has to be willing to invest the time necessary to share their feelings and opinions. Because you are a product of your experiences, each day you are a new person. Without talking and listening to each other, team members can soon become strangers.

Trait 5: RELIGION

Praying together, as well as, praying for one another are extremely important for a strong, happy team. Worshiping together is a bonding experience.

Trait 6: SENSE OF HUMOR

Happy teams have fun together; they play together; they laugh together. Having a sense of

humor during tense, troublesome moments...defuses the tension and has an immediate calming effect.

Trait 7: SHARE RESPONSIBILITY

Flexibility is an important trait in strong teams, especially when it comes to sharing responsibility and roles. If team members will do whatever is necessary to meet each other's needs, even if the task does not happen to be on their list, everyone is happier.

Together Everyone Accomplishes More!

Trait 8: COMMON INTERESTS

The more that team members have in common, the more they tend to do together. Having similar interests and developing common goals gives the team something to look forward to, to plan toward, and to experience together.

Trait 9: SERVICE TO OTHERS

Just as a pond grows stagnant if there is no outlet, so does the team. Rosalynn and Jimmy Carter...agreed that nothing (not even the White House experience) brought them as much joy and satisfaction as they received when pounding nails and paint-

ing walls in houses they were volunteering to build for others. Your own problems and worries can become insignificant when seen from the perspective of others who have so much less than you.

Trait 10: SEEKING HELP

Healthy teams are not problem-free; they just admit to problems and get the help they need to solve them! The longer a problem drags on without a solution, the more discouraging team life becomes. Do not allow this to happen.

When you are a big enough person to admit you are not perfect and when you choose to get the help you need, not only will you gain the respect of your team, but you will find that your goal of living "happily ever after" is attainable after all.

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