

Take the ROOF off WINTER



Snowball Weigh-In

Go on a Walk with your friends with the only task being to create your very own snowball by the end of the walk. Back at your house, have your friends weigh and measure their snowballs and record this information. Next, place each snowball in its own dish in various areas of the house (e.g. under the radiator, by the window or on a desk) and have your friends monitor the time it takes for the snowballs to melt in each location and record how much water each produces.

Snow Pile Each team has five minutes to build the highest snow pile.

Spoon Balls Each team is given a spoon and a snowball. One at a time, each member puts the snowball on the spoon and runs around a marker. Variation: (1) everyone continues taking turns for a specified amount of time instead of stopping after each person has gone once

Dog Sled Race Everyone (drivers) take turns being pulled by their teams (dogs) around a marked course on a toboggan.

Fill it Up Teams fill a bucket full of snow using a scoop. See which team can fill the bucket the fastest or see which team has the most snow in their bucket after a certain period of time.

Heart Energizer Divide your friends into 4 teams. Set up a four corner box using cones for each corner and make the box approximately 10 metres squared. Assign each team to a cone. Place as many bean bags as there are players in the centre and place one hoop around each team's cone. On the GO signal one player from each team begins the relay by running to the centre, picking up one bean bag, and returning it to their hoop. Each player takes their turn repeating the action. When all bags are gone from the centre players are then allowed to take one bag from another team's hoop (each time they have their turn). Play as long as you wish and add up the bags in your hoop at the end.

Winter Obstacle Course

Create a winter obstacle course with an additional challenge: all the participants must go through it "attached" in some way. It can be as simple as holding hands or with belt loops clipped to a rope. Have everyone hold a circle made of rope with both hands and get up as a group, without letting go of the rope. The group could also try to move an object (such as a large ring) through a circle made of rope as quickly as possible. Once good teamwork is established, the next level of challenge is to use the circle of rope as a "catching" tool. Have someone toss an object and the group tries to catch it in the circle. Make this even more fun and challenging by blindfolding the person who is throwing.

Bullring Golf

You need a metal ring, approximately 1 1/2" - 2" in diameter (smaller than a golf ball). You also need as many strings as there are players. The length of the strings depends on the age and ability of the players. Tie one end of each string to the ring and have each player hold the other end of the string. From above, this should look like a small sun with rays. Put a golf ball on the ring. The group needs to work together to lift the ring and the ball off the ground and to move the ball to designated points (golf holes). These golf holes can be as big as a coffee can or the size of a coffee cup. They can also be short plastic plumbing pipes put in the grass. The group gently deposits the golf balls in or over these objects. If you think this is too easy, choose an area where there are trees, picnic tables and other objects in the way.

Winter time scavenger hunt

In small groups, send your friends on a scavenger hunt with a very specific list to fill (one pinecone, two black rocks, a hat, etc.). You can always "plant" objects if necessary. When they come back, ask them to create an "art" object. Match the request to their interests: a dinosaur, a kitten and his mom, a cartoon character, etc. Each team can then explain their creations.