



# Pumping the Colors®

## AUDIENCE

New and existing team members and team leaders throughout your organization. *Pumping the Colors* is particularly appropriate for teams involved in Total Quality Management initiatives, re-engineering, right-sizing, or mergers.

"Pump up" your teams' success

## Program Benefits

Simulation Training Systems' *Pumping the Colors*® is a challenging and uplifting way for team members to develop their creativity, cooperation, organization, planning, and risk-taking skills—the attributes of high-performing teams. During this captivating, hands-on simulation, participants build a colored fluid transportation system. Only by confronting problems and creating plans for achieving team success are they able to complete the task in the given time-frame. Then participants review their achievements and create strategies for future team improvement. After completing *Pumping the Colors*, participants are able to:

- clarify the type of team they want to be
- reform current team behaviors in order to enhance self-directed teamwork
- create open and honest team cultures that foster continuous improvement
- build team productivity and morale
- improve project management
- better negotiate the conditions, resources, and schedules critical to team success

## Program Description

*Pumping the Colors* participant teams of six to ten people design and physically build a pipe and tube system that transports colored fluid from one end of an eight-foot mat to any one of 12 targets at the other end. They are challenged to bond together to make decisions, take risks, negotiate, plan, evaluate, and build under the stress of completing the project. Teams learn how to deal with time constraints, risk factors, and evaluation measurements. They also develop the skills needed to resolve unproductive conflict, manage material and personnel resources, schedule time effectively, and negotiate contracts.

After the color flows, teams cheer and celebrate—just as they do in real-world work situations. Then participants raise issues and concerns, examine how they personally affect the team process, and develop strategies for improving future team success.

## Implementation/Customization

*Pumping the Colors* can be run for groups as small as six and as large as 65. It can be implemented as a 1/2 day to a two-day workshop, separately or in conjunction with other initiatives. Discussion of team results is typically customized to focus on specific training needs or issues. Building chests include all components, manuals, and tools, including 75 feet of plastic pipe, 50 feet of tubing, connectors, a pump, and valves. Consumable parts can be ordered as needed.