



Capture the Flag: Backyard Edition

Players: 4+ | Ages: 6-10 | Time: 20-40 minutes

What You Need:

- 2 bandanas, socks, or rags to use as flags
- A yard big enough to split into two sides
- 4+ players (even teams work best)

Setup:

1. Divide the yard in half with a clear line (use cones, sticks, or a garden hose).
2. Each team hides their flag on their side. It has to be at least partly visible — no burying it.
3. Decide on a "jail" spot on each side (a tree, a patio corner, etc).

How to Play:

1. Teams start on their own side.
2. On "Go!" players try to cross into enemy territory, grab the flag, and bring it back to their side.
3. If you get tagged on the other team's side, you go to their jail.
4. A teammate can free you by tagging you in jail (one rescue at a time).
5. First team to capture the flag and bring it across the center line wins.

Backyard Tweaks:

- Small yard? Shrink teams to 2v2 and use a shorter field.
- Mixed ages? Give younger kids a 5-second head start when crossing.