

# Forest of False Affirmation Challenges

These are challenge options for Lorekeepers to use when the group is lost in the forest maze during Journey 16. Select any that fit your session's style and group needs.

## The Compliment Echo Chamber

The group enters a twisting hallway lined entirely with mirrors that sparkle and speak. Whenever someone passes, the mirrors call out bright and shiny compliments, saying things like, "You're amazing!" or "You've never made a mistake!" Every echo is cheerful, and the compliments repeat, sounding almost as if they have been played many times before.

### Flow-Based Strategies:

- Dance, sing, or make up new responses, experimenting with silly faces or playful voices until something changes in the hallway.
- Laugh about the odd compliments and then create and share fresh, heartfelt affirmations with each other, watching for new reactions from the mirrors.
- Use intuition together to seek out any mirror that responds differently to the group's actions.

### Grounded-Based Approaches:

- Observe and analyze what triggers each compliment, looking closely for patterns or clues, and discuss which mirrors might hold something authentic.
- Organize a list and compare compliments, talking together to spot any differences or something special in the echoes.
- Experiment with the mirrors step by step, changing one thing at a time and recording the shifts, following a careful process until an answer appears.

**Success:** The group finds one special mirror hidden among the rest, offering a truly unique compliment to each journeyer, a kind word that is just for them, and the bright hallway feels warmer and more genuine.

**Failure:** The group gets tangled in the noise and repetition, feeling stuck or unsure how to respond. They need to pause, help each other regroup, or try a new team strategy before the passage will let them through.

## Mirror of Mixed Messages

The group discovers a wall of mirrors, each reflecting a different shape or size. When a journeyer speaks aloud, the mirrors answer back, sometimes with encouragement and sometimes with strange, contradictory phrases.

### Flow-Based Strategies:

- Respond to each phrase with movement or song, seeing which rhythm or posture changes the mirror's reply.
- Try spontaneous teamwork, like making funny faces in unison, to find the right combination that unlocks a secret.

### **Grounded-Based Approaches:**

- Test each mirror methodically, record responses, and look for logical patterns in the statements.
- Compare all mirror replies, searching for one that matches truthfully with participants' own feelings.

**Success:** The group finds one mirror offering wise advice for moving forward, and a hidden door swings open.

**Failure:** The contradictory words confuse everyone, leading the group to circle back and try a different approach.

## **The Out-of-Order Signposts**

The path branches at a colorful signpost with arrows pointing in every direction, labeled with random yet upbeat messages like "This Way to Superstar Land!" Some arrows keep spinning slowly.

### **Flow-Based Strategies:**

- Follow an arrow by intuition, perhaps spinning with it or choosing the most humorous sign together.
- Invite each participant to pick a direction based on what feels most fun, then compare results.

### **Grounded-Based Approaches:**

- Steady the signpost, examine which arrows show signs of wear or dust, and reason which one leads out.
- Cross-reference information on past signs, looking for a clue that fits the overall pattern.

**Success:** The group chooses the true exit arrow and finds their way closer to the center of the maze.

**Failure:** The arrow leads them back to the starting point, and they'll need to puzzle again.

## **The Whistling Maze Wall**

A wall in the maze emits gentle whistles and hums, changing pitch as participants approach. Sometimes it harmonizes with footsteps, sometimes it mimics the group's mood.

### **Flow-Based Strategies:**

- Join in with whistles, humming, or tapping feet to unlock a hidden tune in the wall.
- Experiment with laughter or funny noises to see how the wall responds.

### **Grounded-Based Approaches:**

- Carefully match notes and pitches, recording which ones trigger new wall sounds.
- Investigate the wall for hidden speakers or clues that can be decoded methodically.

**Success:** The wall harmonizes with the group, revealing a passage through.

**Failure:** The sound overwhelms and the group feels lost, needing to pause and regroup.

## Maze of Mistaken Names

Name tags are scattered on the ground. Each tag says “Hello, My Name Is” with a positive but inaccurate label: “Champion,” “The Chosen One,” “Birthday Person,” etc. Picking up or wearing a tag appears to change how the maze responds.

### Flow-Based Strategies:

- Try out different tags, making up stories about how that name fits, then act out a scene using the tag.
- Switch tags in quick succession and observe which story or persona opens a new path.

### Grounded-Based Approaches:

- Organize the tags by theme or color, keeping notes on results for each attempted name.
- Observe carefully where new doors appear after trying certain combinations.

**Success:** As participants experiment with name tags, the maze shifts and offers doors, alcoves, and branching corridors that match the chosen tags, like a “Champion’s Hall” or a “Birthday Party Room.” Only when someone writes their actual name or a meaningful strength on a tag or puts on a tag that matches something authentic about them does a new path appear, gently lit and clearly marked, leading deeper into the maze. This signals the maze’s recognition of authentic identity and opens the way forward, inviting everyone to bring their true selves along.

**Failure:** The group gets caught up in the stories and keeps finding paths that circle back to playful, surface-level destinations. The team must pause, reflect, and try again with more honesty and self-understanding before progressing.

## The Corridor of Colorful Keys

A table blocks the corridor, piled high with keys of every shape and color. Each key seems to fit in a different painted lock along the wall, but using the wrong key makes the locks jiggle and change places.

### Flow-Based Strategies:

- Choose keys based on favorite colors, shapes, or random guesses, making the process playful and light.
- Encourage quick rounds where each participant tries their own approach, cheering each attempt.

### Grounded-Based Approaches:

- Inspect each lock for tiny clues that match a key’s design, colors, or symbols.
- Organize the keys and locks by attributes, making notes and testing systematically to find the match.

**Success:** The correct key opens a lock with a gentle click, revealing a cheerful shortcut and a brightly decorated passage.

**Failure:** Locks keep giggling and skipping away, so the group must pause, refocus, or try new strategies before they can continue.