

Gold Fever.....Sample Logline and Synopsis for Writers

Title: Gold Fever – Quest for the Mother Lode

Logline: Like Amazing Racer's clashing with Survivor's, male/female teams overcome conflicts and dilemmas while battling to stake their gold claims. Conquering arduous tasks inherent to gold prospecting, and facing-off in a Wild West shoot-out are vital, if they are to prevail and claim the season ending mother lode of gold valued at \$1,000,000.

Project:	Gold Fever – Quest for the Mother Lode
Copyright:	February 11, 2020
Reality:	Formatted (12-ep. arc/self-contained series)
Option/Acquisition:	Negotiable/\$350,000



Synopsis: Gold Fever – Quest for the Mother Lode is a formatted reality competition, and arc series consisting of 12 episodes. The format reveals an adventurous and intensely competitive show, whereby the Prospectors and 49ers teams are challenged to resolve clues and overcome obstacles and difficult tasks. Many of which, are common to those experienced during the Gold Rush of 1848 at Sutter's Mill near Lake Tahoe, California.

In their struggles, teams are faced with conflicts, make-or-break dilemmas and claiming gold nuggets (gold faux) by use of digs, ropes, pans, shovels and picks. Teams will follow treasure map clues, scuffle in their effort to lead a stubborn donkey and be challenged with wheeling big boulder carts over treacherous terrain. Teams are faced with the daunting obstacle of traversing a log over Snake Pit Ravine, and transporting their gold find by block and tackle. After having a drink at The Jack Shack, they may squeeze through Treasure Tunnel or slog their way in the Quick Sandy Pit, but for sure, they will engage in a Wild West shoot-out at Duel or Die Pass.



The most promising Gold Fever candidates will be the male/female teams that possess great physical fitness and strength, are fast on their feet and have a high aptitude in resolving Gold Fever clues. Each week two teams compete to stake their claim to the most weight in gold faux nuggets and advance to the next round.

Competition Format

The season begins with 12 qualifying competitors. Three male/female teams competing for the Prospectors and 49ers Divisions. Team members from both divisions draw names to decide who the male/female pairings will be. After reviewing brief descriptions of weekly tasks, the team members decide which pairings are best fitted to compete in each week's competition. All male/female teams compete twice during the first six weeks.

In each week's competition the course is unique and set with two or three tasks that include a combination of strenuous and difficult tasks, claiming gold nuggets. As teams run along a trail, they post with instructions that describe the objective of that task. During the competition teams will utilize many tools including picks, maps, ropes, pans, screens, logs, block and tackles and boulder carts in the effort to complete their tasks.



After the first team completes the course, their gold claim is deposited in a tin bucket. An assistant delivers the gold to the official weigh-in station while another assistant restores each obstacle and/or task and adds an equal number of gold nuggets to the same recovery spot based on the number of nuggets that were claimed by the first team. Therefore, the course is equally challenging with equal reward opportunities.

In Week 7 the teams gather for eliminations and social time; tossing horse shoes, roping and enjoying some grub. Prospectors and 49ers vote for the elimination of one of their teams. Members consider which two teams have the greatest chance to prevail in the weeks to come, then eliminates the weakest team. In the elimination process, it can be anticipated that there will be some dissention, resentment and arguing among the team members. Order will need to be restored and ultimately, one team representing the Prospectors and 49ers divisions will be eliminated.

Semi-final rounds in Weeks 8 and 9 will include two advancing teams from the Prospectors and the 49ers. Two teams from each division compete in Weeks 8 and 9 and the team claiming the most weight advances to the finale. Although the courses in Weeks 8 and 9 will have unique tasks, the weights in gold to be claimed will be identical. Before the competition starts, Prospectors and 49ers draw a number to determine which team will compete first. At the conclusion of Weeks 8 and 9 the gold claims are weighed and recorded. The results are placed in a sealed envelope and are held in secret until Week 10.

Week 10 is a time for team members to regroup and enjoy a social bonfire. Prospectors and 49ers convene for team eliminations and to witness the weigh-in of gold from the previous two weeks competitions. Drama builds as the team assemble for the weigh-in. The gold claims are weighed and the teams to represent the Prospectors and 49ers in the finale are announced. Also, at this time the accrued weight of gold for both divisions is tallied and announced.

The highly anticipated finale extends through Week 11 and 12. The teams representing the Prospectors and 49ers prepare to battle in a head-to-head competition. The two teams run along courses that are equal in clues, obstacles and weight in gold. At the end of the trail, and after a Wild West shoot-out the team claiming the most weight in gold wins the season's competition. That team is declared the Greatest Gold Diggers of 2021 and secures the right to the final dig to claim the treasure trove of gold valued at \$1,000,000.

Production of the Gold Fever Competition

There are many options to consider in the production of Gold Fever. It is estimated that the building of sets and filming may require as many as 5-7 acres. Production could be achieved at nearby fixed locations or at abandoned mining sites and ghost towns. The creator of this venture has personally viewed many potential filming locations in California, Nevada, Arizona and Colorado.

Sutter's Mill Mine near Lake Tahoe, California is the location where in 1848 gold was first discovered along the banks of the South Fork American River. Word of gold spread fast and the California Gold Rush was born. The Sutter's Mill Mine can be leased for temporary use through the California State Lands Commission. The mine location, as a backdrop, coupled with existing buildings and gold mining machinery provides an excellent visual for production and would significantly reduce the cost of set construction.

Qualifying Contestants

Preceding the first season it will be necessary to qualify prospective team members. A good source of individuals could be procured through the vast pool of aspiring actors. These individuals will have interesting personal stories and a great willingness to compete, while garnering professional exposure.

Challenging Options to the Gold Fever Competition

Below, are 18 concepts of obstacles and tasks for inclusion to the competition. Considering a typical episode duration of 60 minutes it is likely that two or three tasks will fill the time slot. During each week's elimination round contestants from the Prospectors and 49ers will compete on the same course. At each task there will be a post with instructions of the objective and the total count in number of gold nuggets at the site. Depending on the time to claim gold nuggets, teams may elect to recover less than the total to be sure they complete the course in the required time. At the conclusion of each episode the team's gold is weighed and recorded.

1. Dilemma Junction – Team members run together and approach Dilemma Junction. On a post, are instructions to choose either Rattlesnake Gulch (.07km) that is partly flooded and has a shallow dig to recover a nugget of gold or fool's gold, OR choose Hangman's Trail (50 yds.) that has a shallow dig to recover a small leather pouch with unknown contents. The team debates then runs on their trail of choice, not knowing if the dig site will yield the golden nugget. At dig sites, there are mining picks to use in reaching the "pay dirt" where the treasure is found. {Only Hangman's Trail possess the gold faux nugget}
2. Shoot-Out at Gunslinger's Trail – While approaching along Gunslingers Trail to their mining shack, team members observe a picture of Billy the Kid and other outlaws on several Wanted signs posted by Federal Marshals. The sound of gun fire is heard and intensifies as they draw closer. Three outlaws including the infamous Billy the Kid appear with pistols drawn and announce "We have come to steal

your gold and claim our stake on these here gold reserves". "And we do this by order of... Our Greedy Cause". The team three bags of gold and to kill the scoundrels. West shoot-out with the entourage of take arms with protective gear and model T4E/TR50 caliber pistol revolvers) A outlaws defend their positions within a 25-50 The team must make discernable hits to the successful take-out, the team claims the three bags of gold.



moves in to recover They prepare for a Wild outlaws. Both members revolvers. (paintball shoot-out ensues as feet shooting boundary. three outlaws. After the

3. Big Boulder Load – Team members approach a post with instructions that there is a scatter of 15 boulders. They must stop to load a boulder cart with the 15 very heavy boulders, then push the load up and down three tilted and very bumpy hills to deposit at a dumping zone. All 15 boulders must be deposited within the zone before advancing. (the tilted path has a high likelihood of causing the team to dump their load, and if so, they must reload to continue)
4. Quick Sandy Pit – Team members approach a post with instructions that one member carry the 75- pound boulder across a 25-foot quick sand pit. One member steps into rubber chest waders then struggles to carry the boulder across the pit that is filled with a thick mass of mud and sandy muck. The bottom of the pit is bumpy and varies from two-three feet in depth, possibly causing the member to stumble and fall. At the finish, the boulder must be dropped in a designated pot hole and the other member can help in removing the waders and using wash buckets to clean their partner before proceeding on the trail.
5. Treasure Map Dilemma – Team members approach a post with instructions to find a treasure map and as many as 7 gold nuggets. The team can choose to begin their search by digging under 1 of 3 boulders however, if the map is not found under the first boulder the members must dig under their next choice boulder, until the map is found. OR, the team may elect to have a member run 50 yards to retrieve a clue that reveals the right boulder to dig under. After retrieving the map, the team is instructed to go back to the post and find a marker that places them in the exact facing position to begin their dig site search. The treasure map identifies several wooden claim stakes to locate by counting off - 21 paces at 2 o'clock, then 15 paces at 9 o'clock, then 12 paces at 7 o'clock, etc. The dig site is at the last stake with a mining pick. The team digs in to claim the gold nuggets.
6. Buckets of Stones – Team members approach a post with instructions to fill and transport two wooden buckets with 15 stones. The object is to connect buckets to opposite ends of small log, eight-feet in length. One team member places the tree branch, with attached buckets over the shoulders of their team mate then fills the buckets with stones. The team advances along a trail that is riddled with

several standing posts and stones that impede the team's progress. All 15 stones must be unloaded at a drop zone before advancing.

7. Donkey Song – Team members approach a post with instructions that one member must climb the knotted rope hung in a nearby tree then retrieve a burlap bag that contains a clue and a directional compass. A clue to the gold proclaims, to proceed 100 feet North then 49 feet West then 63 feet Southeast to find a large red rock that marks the dig site. The team removes the rock and with caution, uses a mining pick to dig 35" deep to reach the "pay dirt", concealing as many as 15 gold nuggets. The team quickly digs to recovers as many nuggets as they can before dropping them in the saddle bag of a nearby donkey named Daisy Mae. The team is required to sing "Get along little donkey" as they struggle to lead the donkey about 50 yards to where the nuggets are deposited in a tin bucket before advancing.
8. Gold Stone Cliff Climb – Team members approach a post with instructions that they place leather strap satchels over their shoulders then climb the Gold Stone Cliff (fabricated) with use of foot holes, hand grips and two knotted ropes. Their objective is to climb the wall and with mining claws, extract as many as nine gold nuggets lodged within the cliff face. If a stone is dropped, it is considered lost and cannot be weighed. Being mindful of the clock members need to claim as much gold within a reasonable time then descend to drop their gold into a tin bucket before advancing.
9. Golden Pan - Team members approach a post with instructions to go to the river (or water pool) and in a designated area, pan through rocks and sand in a wooden trough for as many as 12 small gold nuggets. Both team members quickly pan in the trough to claim gold nuggets.
10. Treasure Tunnel - Team members approach a post with instructions that one member must squeeze through a narrow winding tunnel that is 25 feet long. The objective is to claim as many as nine gold nuggets. The gold is contained in two small burlap bags that can be found in two alcoves within the tunnel. A winding tunnel is excavated and a plexiglass top is secured for filming and to allow the other team member to help direct their partner to the alcoves. After making their gold claim and squeezing through the tunnel, the team deposits their find into a tin bucket before advancing.
11. Sutter Hill Cart Dump – Team members approach a post with instructions to fill an ore cart with 10 boulders then deliver them to the top of Sutter Hill where they will dump the load into a pit below. A rope is attached to the front of the cart so both team members can jointly push and pull the load up the hill. After dumping, the team runs to the bottom of the hill before advancing on the trail.



- 12. Jack Shack** – Team members approach a post with instructions for both to stop at Jack Shack, which is a whisky station and to drink a full glass flask of whisky. The drink is actually a foul-tasting tea and is harmless to the body. (the drink is to create disgust of contestants and humorous reaction by the audience) Members have a dramatic reaction after drinking the formula.
- 13. Snake Pit Ravine** – Team members approach a post with instructions to lower the far end of a log into the log slot on the opposite side of the ravine. The near end of the log is firmly secured and can swivel as the far end of the log is directed across the ravine. Each contestant grabs a rope that is attached to the far end of the log. As they pull and manage balance, the log is lifted and they carefully direct the flat side of the log into the log slot where it is firmly secured on the opposite side of the ravine. After securing the contestants test their balance as they traverse to the other side.
- 14. Sift Screening** - Team members approach a post with instructions to go to the river (or water pond), to sift a screen for as many as 12 small gold nuggets. Both team members grab for nuggets that are buried in rocks and sand, then place on the screen to sift through until they discover their find. After claiming as many of the gold nuggets in a reasonable time the members decide to deposit their find in a tin bucket before advancing on the trail.
- 15. Mine Shaft Bucket Brigade** – Team members approach a post at the mine shaft (a painted and elevated mine shaft platform façade). At the nearest end of the platform is a rope ladder to be used to climb up to the platform. Near the middle of the platform and on the ground is a pile of 25 boulders. One member climbs a rope ladder to the platform then lowers the bucket on a rope down to the other team member on the ground who loads part of the pile of boulders into the bucket. The bucket is raised by the member on the platform, then carries the load to the far end of the platform to be deposited in a wooden barrel. The process is repeated until the balance of the 25 boulders are loaded, lifted and deposited. The member on the platform uses the ladder to descend to the trail.
- 16. Pick and Shovel Digs** – Team members approach a post with instructions that both must dig and recover as many as 9 gold nuggets from the “pay dirt” at each chooses either a pick or a shovel and the male take the other tool. They are guided to zones where their digs begin. Together, they may claim as many as 18 nuggets before dropping them in a tin bucket, then advancing.



17. Block and Tackle – Team members approach a post with instructions to place five gold nuggets in a shallow wire mesh bucket. The task is to transport the gold, 75 feet from atop a 30' hill then down to a landing zone via an elevated pulley system. Rustic pole tripods support block and tackle pulleys and a hemp type rope is used to transport the bucket of gold nuggets. Members decide who will be on the hill and at the collection point landing. After positioning themselves, they carefully pull their ropes in unison to avoid dumping the nuggets. The member at the landing receives the bucket and any nuggets, (if any). The team deposits their gold in a tin bucket before advancing.

18. Duel or Die at Settler's Mine – Final team members from the Prospectors and 49ers Divisions face off in a head-to-head shoot-out at an abandoned mine. Rumor has it that a gold stash was lost when previous bandits raided the camp and drove out the mine owners. The Prospectors and 49ers argue for their rights to the find, but without resolve. The solution shall be determined in a Wild West shoot-out with the winner taking all. Both teams suit up with protective gear and show their revolvers. (paintball model T4E/TR50 caliber pistol revolvers). They take aim and a shoot-out ensues. The last team member standing, without being hit is declared as the winning team. His/her partner rises and limps to assist in their search for the lost gold in a dilapidated shack, where the gold will ultimately be found. The team is anxious to have the gold weighed, in hope to tilt the scale in their favor and prevail in the season ending finale.



Progressive Path of Competition

Week 1 Competition - One team representing the Prospectors and 49ers compete in individual runs:
#1 Dilemma Junction, #12 Jack Shack, #16 Pick & Shovel Dig

Week 2 Competition - One team of the Prospectors and 49ers compete in individual runs that include: #14 Sift Screening, #15 Mine Shaft Bucket Brigade

Week 3 Competition - One team of the Prospectors and 49ers compete in individual runs that include: #11 Sutter Hill Cart Dump, #12 Jack Shack #9 Golden Pan

Week 4 Competition - One team of the Prospectors and 49ers compete in individual runs that include: #3 Big Boulder Load #7 Knotted Rope & Donkey Song

Week 5 Competition - One team of the Prospectors and 49ers compete in individual runs that include: #8 Cliff Climb #12 Jack Shack #13 Snake Pit Ravine

Week 6 Competition - One team of the Prospectors and 49ers compete in individual runs that include: #14 Sift Screen #2 Shoot-out at Gunslinger Pass

Week 7 Competition – Bonfire gathering with horse shoes, roping, song and grub. Elimination of teams and official weigh-in of gold recovered in Weeks 1 - 6

Week 8 Competition - One team of the Prospectors and 49ers compete in individual runs that include: #6 Bucket of Stones #15 Mine Shaft Bucket Brigade

Week 9 Competition - One team of the Prospectors and 49ers compete in individual runs that include: #7 Knotted Rope & Donkey Song #8 Cliff Climb

Week 10 Competition – Party time with horse shoes and roping contest. Elimination of teams and official weigh-in of gold recovery in Weeks 8 and 9

Week 11 Competition - Finals team of the Prospectors and 49ers compete in individual runs that include: #13 Snake Pit Ravine #5 Treasure Map Dilemma

Week 12 Competition - Finals team of the Prospectors and 49ers compete **head-to-head** on 2 identical courses #4 Quick Sandy Pit #12 Jack Shack #18 Duel or Die at Settlers Mine, In the Week 12 Finale teams draw a card to determine which course to compete. Teams will run along courses that are equal in clues, obstacles and digs with a conclusive shoot-out. At the end of the trail, the Prospector and 49ers teams deliver their gold claims at the official weigh-in station. The weights are added to the accrued weight from previous weeks. With much anticipation, the final weight is announced. The winning team is declared the Greatest Gold Diggers of 2021. The team is directed to the area of the champion's final dig where one member celebrates while the other uses a golden pick to recover the elusive mother lode of gold. A treasure chest containing real gold bullion, coins and nuggets worth \$1,000,000.

Writers Vision

My vision is to create a high energy competition whereby team players possess great strength, speed and aptitude to resolve clues. This, coupled with the natural manifestation of team conflicts, dilemmas, and resolve, provide assurance that this reality competition is of high entertainment value for all audiences. With the current excitement centered around gold and programming of several related shows the timing of Gold Fever is exceptional and is conducive to worldwide productions. Creator: Paul Matthews