

RETRIEVE THE FOOD– Teaching Notes

STAR Leadership Program

Objectives

Learners will be able to:

1. Identify key components of successful and unsuccessful teams.
2. Problem solve within a team setting.

Materials

Team 1: 2 pieces of string, a rubber band, a stick of gum, pencil

Team 2: 2 pieces of string, a rubber band, a paper clip, 5 toothpicks

This activity can be adapted to include any sort of items.

Preparation Prior to Students Entering Room

1. Gather materials.

Part 1 – Activity

1. Divide the students into two teams.
2. Hand out the scenario.
 - a. You went on a retreat with your research team to a small island. After the first few days, a huge hurricane washed away most everything on the island. Luckily you found safety in a cave. You lost everything except for what your teammates have in their pockets. After looking around the island for a while, you notice a container of food floating in the middle of a pool of some kind of greenish liquid. You want to get the food but are not willing to risk getting into the pool and you do not want to touch the container with your hands. You also notice another team of people on the other side of the pool. You decide you must figure out a way to get that food using the items you have in your pockets. It's getting dark so you have 15 minutes to try to complete the task. Only one group of people may attempt the task at a time.
3. Start the time.
4. The students are free to view the other team as competitors or collaborators. With the items used in this scenario, the students will have a better chance of successfully solving the problem if they pool their resources – both in terms of tools and ideas.

Part 2 – Activity Debrief

1. The following questions were discussed at the end of the activity:
 - a. How did you approach the problem? Did everyone provide input?
 - b. How did the limited time and resources affect your approach to the problem?
 - c. What did you learn about the roles of the group members?
 - d. What behaviors did you find most helpful?
 - e. How did the situation shape your view of your own teammates? Of the other team?