



Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development Program

Building Leaders for Tomorrow

Instilling and developing leadership capabilities in youth and adults.

AGE LEVEL— Advanced

CONCEPT OR SKILL – Applying Leadership Skills – take full responsibility for office, club, committees, and leadership roles. Counsel and communicate with adult mentors/volunteers. Conduct ones self as a role model, mentor, counselor and teen leader.

LIFE SKILL(S) – Hands –Marketable Skills, Community Service Volunteering; **Health** –Character, Personal Safety; **Head** – Critical Thinking; **Heart** – Concern for Others

BEHAVIORAL INDICATOR – Want and need a strong voice in planning their own programs. Want adults to act as advisors instead of leaders.

ACTIVITY 28: “The Rescuers”

THINGS TO KNOW:

It is important for a group to be able to envision what direction they would like to take as a group. A group that lacks direction is immobilized – they cannot plan for the future or set goals. Youth at the advanced level should be challenging their skills as noted on the *Targeting Life Skills Model*. They should continually stretch and be stretched so they possess wanted marketable skills. Teens should be capable of setting goals and planning and conducting activities with minimal guidance from an adult or mentor. The key is their understanding and use of effective and open verbal and non-verbal communications with the adult/counselor/mentor/advisor. To accompany this responsibility and new freedom the teens must keep their advisor informed.

Those serving in leadership roles are constantly being examined by the public and club membership. It is important that those choosing to serve in leadership roles consider their public and private actions in and outside the meeting.

Being a good citizen and student. Members of youth groups have many opportunities to appear before the public. Because any organization or group is judged by the actions of its members, they should be sure to conduct themselves properly at all times. A good member of an organization wears any official dress correctly and proudly, respects the rights of others at all times, uses proper manners for both private and public occasions, and is a good listener. Attention to all these points will cause a positive reflection on both the individual and organization.

Officers, committee chairs, teen leaders, camp counselors, etc. must have good judgment; they must be able to think and make sound decisions. As good citizens they will gain the support and respect from persons in the community, club and at school.

Initiative and willingness to work. Those in a leadership role must be self-starters and able to “spark” others in the organization. Being a leader requires considerable work; each role has specific responsibilities, demanding time and effort. The organization should be high on the “personal” activities list of the leader.

Ability to work with others. Those in leadership roles must work with the entire membership. They must be able to earn the respect of and to get along with other members. Leaders should be able to identify ability and qualities in others and to delegate responsibility to individual members. Instead of evading responsibility or doing things alone, a leader works with others to help them do their assigned work successfully. They communicate regularly with the advisor keeping them updated on committee action.

Leadership. A leader belongs to that small group of people who make things happen. With experience gained as an active member, a leader can provide guidance, motivate others, and make them want to follow in accomplishing a common goal for the organization. A good clear voice is important because leaders are regularly required to speak in carrying out the responsibilities assigned. Some examples are giving committee reports, representing the organization at other public meetings, representing your club on a committee, and conducting ceremonies/activities/events. A strong clear voice aids in improved communication—an important leadership trait.

Dependability and responsibility. Leaders have many responsibilities to fulfill. Members must be able to count on a leader. For them the golden rule “*Do unto others as you would have them do unto you,*” is important. Those in leadership roles must be willing to accept the results of their actions. If they finish what they start and do a good job, they will have no reason to be ashamed of their actions, regardless of their measure of success.

Regular meetings. The importance of regular meetings should not be overlooked. The preparation of an agenda for meetings should be seen as important activity as the meeting itself. Officers/committees are comparable with the board of directors of a business organization; their actions and thoughts are the basis for much of the final action taken by the members. A well-planned meeting, with an agenda prepared in advance, will help to ensure wise use of time. At general meetings interest frequently lags when time is spent needlessly on minor details that should have been handled during the



Materials Needed: Several raccoon circles tied together to make one big circle (the number of raccoon circles needed will depend on the size of the group).

Do: Inform the group that they have been stranded on a desert island as the result of a plane crash. Because of the force of the blast from the crash, they have temporarily lost their hearing (which means no talking) and their sight (which means no peeking). Their goal is to form a sign for help in the shape of an equilateral triangle utilizing wreckage from the plane (in this case, several raccoon circles tied together). It is important that the group experience three combinations of physical challenges during the time they spend trying to complete the task: ask them to begin the activity as both blind and deaf, then adjust the situation to where they are just blind, and finally, instruct them that they are just deaf.

Reflect:

1. How did it feel to be working towards a goal without the use of two of your senses?
2. How did communications improve as you regained some of your senses used for communicating?
3. Did the challenge become easier when you were able to talk with each other or see each other? Why?
4. Which situation was the most frustrating? Why?

Apply:

1. Why was it so important to be able to communicate during this activity?
2. How can this experience be used as a comparison to communication breakdowns that occur in a club or committee?
3. Identify people who might feel like they have no hearing or sight when they are not kept informed? (Membership, advisor, etc.)
4. What qualities can you exhibit to make you a successful teen leader/officer/committee chair.

Source: Lester, Chuck. Camp Director, New London County 4-H Camp, Connecticut.