



TEAMING UP WITH FRIENDS

Project Skills:

- Youth will work cooperatively to complete a teamwork challenge.

Life Skills:

- Communication

Academic Standards:

- English C.4.3 Youth will participate effectively in discussion.

Grade Level: 3

Time: 60 minutes

Supplies Needed:

Float a Boat Activity

- 1 empty ice cream pail per team
- 5 sheets of paper per team
- 4 lengths of duct tape per team
- 1 popsicle stick per team member
- Weights (optional)

Canteen Activity

- Fruit popsicles (optional)

Campfire Activity

- Fan with orange crepe paper streamers

Enhance/Simplify Activity

- 1 Blindfold

Do Ahead:

- Prepare the “campfire” as directed in the “Meeting New Friends” activity plan.
- Label pails with 4-H lake names (e.g. Lake Clover, 4-H Leafed Lake).

BACKGROUND

Talking to friends and listening to them are skills that can be perfected at camp, but working with friends is new to many youth. In this activity plan youth will have the opportunity to apply skills from past lessons to complete teamwork activities, within both small and large groups.

WHAT TO DO

Activity: The Knot

This activity is for five to 10 individuals. Divide your group accordingly.

Have youth form a tight circle and put their hands in the middle. Instruct them to take hold, with each of their hands, to two other people’s hands. They may not grasp the hand of the person next to them.

Tell them that they are now in a knot and that they need to work together to get out of the knot. Rules are simple: treat each other respectfully and don’t drop the hand you are holding. They will be out of the knot when they are in a circle holding hands with the person next to them. Not everyone will necessarily be pointing in the same direction.

TALK IT OVER

Reflect:

- What happened?
- What seemed to work well for your group?
- How did you feel when your group was trying to solve the problem? Did anyone feel differently than that?

Apply:

- What are some things that can happen when a group has a tough problem to solve?
- What are some ways that the group can solve the problem together?

Activity: Float a Boat on Clover Lake

Explain that this activity will involve working together in small teams. To prepare for the activity, show the group the materials they will have to make a boat to float in one of the “lakes” in camp. Give each team a question to prepare them for the activity, such as, “What makes a good boat?” Encourage the youth to use “Think, Pair, Share” (see “Listening to Friends” activity) as they plan for this teamwork activity.

Give each team five pieces of paper, two popsicle sticks and four lengths of duct tape. They are to design and build a boat to float on their own personal lake (ice cream pail filled one-third of the way with water). Launch the boats at the same time.

Remind the youth that we are all on the same big team here at camp and we should look for positive and encouraging things to say to each about the other teams’ boats. Process the activity with the questions in “Talk It Over” (below).

Activity: Canteen

Serve a warm-weather treat such as fruit popsicles to introduce youth to the idea of the camp canteen.

Sources:

- Created by Paula Rogers Huff, 4-H Youth Development Agent, UW- Extension, Oconto County

Activity: Campfire

In this closing activity, play the Alphabet Game (see “Meeting New Friends” activity) but instead of finding items to bring to camp, instruct youth to identify things that they are taking *away* from camp. You may want to use this as an evaluation by asking them to consider including things that they have learned. You may want to remind them that they can take feelings home with them also.

Light the 4-H Afterschool campfire (fan turned on its side with orange crepe paper streamers) from the “Meeting New Friends” activity plan. Remind them about the safety procedures with “fire” and the need to avoid touching the fire. Then sing the “Shark Tale” and “Friends” songs from that activity plan.

TALK IT OVER**Reflect:**

- What happened on your lake?
- What went well with building your boat?
- What problems did you have? How did you deal with those problems?
- How did it feel working with a partner(s)?

Apply:

- What are the benefits of working on a team?
- What are some problems that teams can solve? Can you think of some problems that you’d like to work on with a team?

ENHANCE/SIMPLIFY**Enhance for Older Children:**

- In “The Knot” activity, enhance the knot by not allowing talking during the solving of the challenge. Blindfold one or two youth (only with their permission) and remind the group that it is their responsibility to ensure the safety of all teammates, especially the blindfolded ones.
- In the “Float a Boat” activity, add weights (washers, etc.) to the floating boats to see how much weight they can hold before collapsing. You could also increase the number of team members from two to three or four if the youth have experience in sharing ideas and working as a team.

Reviewed by Wisconsin 4-H Afterschool Team: July 2005.