

## ALL ABOARD

(The 1980's answer to the 1950's stunt of how many people can fit into a telephone booth.)

Object: to see how many people can get on the 2' x 2' platform at one time.

Rules:

- 1.) In order to be counted as on the platform, each person must have both feet off the ground.
- 2.) The group must be able to hold a balanced pose for at least five seconds ie: no one touches the ground for 5 measured seconds.

Note: An average group can get 12-15 bodies on the platform, although theoretically a much larger number is possible. The exercise lends itself to useful discussion about team effort, group and individual commitment, leadership, compassion and group problem solving dynamics.

The All Aboard is a solidly build 2' x 2' platform. The 2' x 2' measurement is not carved in stone (in fact, each platform I build seems to vary a few inches from side to side), but does provide a general pattern size to work from. In addition, if you don't build a standard sized platform, how can you sponsor a NCAA-sanctioned All Aboard Championship?

Construction of a portable platform is simplicity itself. Cut two 2 ft. sections of 4" x 4" lumber and, placing them parallel to one another 2 ft. apart, (outside edges), nail or screw three 2" x 8" x 2' boards to the top of the 4" x 4" 's. Finish the job by rasping off the edges to minimize the chance of injury if someone were to fall onto the platform.

By fabricating a portable platform (rather than the old, sunk-in-the-ground model), you have the flexibility to present this activity where it best suits the weather or your needs. For variety, give a larger group (20-25) a 3' x 3' platform to serve as a landing area for the swinging All Aboard problem, also called Prouty's Landing.

Remember that one of your responsibilities as group leader is to encourage safety procedures. It may be necessary to occasionally nix an idea if someone's safety is jeopardized. The "Big Pile" technique of stacking people on the platform is dangerous and should not be allowed. This seemingly logical ploy of stacking horizontal participants perpendicular to one another (like tic tac toe) results in tremendous pressure being put on the bottom two people. Perform some quick addition and you will see what a poor solution this becomes--theoretically sound, actually, painful.