

Traffic Jam

Introduce the idea of the situational leader. A leader must deal with the needs of a particular situation using the various techniques of leadership.

Set up markings on the floor which indicate the positions that the group must stand:

ex. →→→→→ _____ ←←←←←

- People may only move in the direction that they begin.
- No backwards moves
- Can't move around someone facing the same direction
- Two people can't move at once.

After the group has solved the problem, have them try it a second time without talking. How does communication help in problem solving? How does brainstorming play a role? Let one outside person guide the group. How does a designated leader help?

Magic Shoes

Designate an area of poisonous jelly, or a deep cavern, that must be crossed. The only one who can stand upon the jelly is the person who is wearing the magic shoes. These can be an imaginary set or some other tangible item that can be passed between participants. Only one person is capable of wearing the magic shoes at a single time. Their objective is to cross the group over the traverse. By adding a wild dangerous herd of tribbles closing in on the group, you have given them incentive to complete the task quickly.

Debrief: Pay special attention to the roles that members accepted. Were they constructive, ones they normally act out, the role they wish to assume? This discussion requires careful observation by the facilitator. Be honest with what you perceived, but be careful of making judgements for the group.

It is inherently easier to develop a negative argument than to advance a constructive one.

-John Steinbeck

discuss: This is an appropriate time to introduce the skill of brainstorming. It is true cooperation that can lead to consensus. It is essential that members of a group recognize the aims of the organization, as well as, honestly admitting their own needs. It is a balance of the individual with the group that builds leadership roles. It is unacceptable and eventually destructive to ignore either.