The Three Islands

Élményakadémia



N° of pax
min. 15 max. 30

outdoors

45 mins

outdoor
experiential
education

Purpose

- meaningful communication
- leadership styles
- turn limits into resources

Materials

- 4 ropes of 10 meters - for marking
- plastic sheets of 30 cms x 30 cms for stepping on; 1 for each participant
- blind folds - for 1/3 of the total number of participants
- A4 paper for writing the letter about the cover story

Preparation

- find a flat area - a meadow or park with a space of 70 sqm-s, where there is only grass on the field
- make 3 big circles with the ropes (original starting points) where your participants can fit in 3 equal groups, place the circles in a triangle format compared to each other (7-7-7 meters away)
- make the 4th circle (goal) another 7 meters away from your triangle shaped area
- prepare a "letter" for the participants - which is given to the "mute" group

Intro

Meaningful communication, cooperation and serving leadership is the base of human cooperation. In this activity you can try your capabilities in a joyful way - you can discover new resources, behaviors and leadership styles.

THE 3 ISLANDS

STEPS

The activity is based on the classic formula: one group has resources but is blindfolded; one group knows what the task is, but is mute; one group lacks the description of the task and the resources but can both talk and see. A letter to the mute group (you do not need to tell them before that they are mute, it is enough if they learn it from the letter) describes the activity, they have to pass on the information to the 2 other teams without using words (blind group and talking group).

1. Divide the group into 3 subgroups and ask them to choose a circle (from the 3 original ones) and wait for further instructions. You can ask if someone is uncomfortable with being blindfolded and decide to take or leave the challenge.

2. One group out of the 3 is blindfolded - make sure they put the blindfolds on before starting the exercise and also put the plastic sheets into the circle of the "blind ones".

3. You give the "letter" which describes the activity embedded into a frame story to the mute group. The letter contains a framing story. For example: you had a non-fatal flight crash and you fell into Oceania, onto 3 different islands close to each other. However, you have to reach the 4th island - which gives you shelter, safety etc. and the opportunity to escape back to civilization. The 3 islands have 3 complementary resources: on the first one people became temporarily blind because of the shock of the crash - but they have imaginary floating boats that they can use for traveling amongst the islands. On the other island everyone lost their verbal expression but got the idea of what is going on and how to escape from here - they are the only ones reading the letter. And the 3rd group has no idea what is going on - they lost their memory - but have perfect verbal capacities to ask and inform. The idea is to get to the 4th island in the given time frame. It is an important rule that they cannot enter the water without using the plastic sheets. If they leave a plastic sheet without anyone stepping on it - it is lost to the "sharks", while using it they have to make sure there is always a foot or a palm on the sheets. The facilitator collects the floating sheets that are not protected by anyone's touch and it is a resource which is lost. Whoever steps into the "sea" without the plastic sheet needs to go back to his/her island. You indicate the time limit in the letter.

4. The activity starts when the letter is given to the group. You do not give any more information to the whole group, only the letter to the mute ones - this way the goal, the time limit and the task description is revealed only from the communication of the "mute" group. Once the talkers understand the information they can spread the task to the blind ones and so on...

5. When they start to travel make sure you as a facilitator monitor the stepping sheets, if they do not step on it they have to be collected.

6. The activity ends when they all reach the 4th island or the time is up.

REFLECTION

- How did you make decisions on a group level?
- How was your leadership style? Are you satisfied with it?
- What capacities did you discover in your group? And in yourself?

COMMENTS

- When blindfolding participants please make sure they are comfortable with this position. If not, shuffle the participants and ensure they take the challenge they are OK with.