

TOXIC SOUP

Objective:

- To explore problem-solving approaches in a group
- To observe potential stress and conflict
- To experience resourcefulness with limited tools
- To encourage creative thinking

Group Size:

Groups of 8 - 14

Materials:

- 1 can of tennis balls
- 4 ropes – 1 about 40', 3 about 20'
- 1 coffee can

Set – Up:

There should be two concentric circles – a small one inside, and a large one outside of that.

The coffee can should be inside the small circle.

The tennis balls will be in their container, outside of the inner circle.

Instructions:

1. The tennis balls are contaminated with radioactive materials. They must be emptied from their container. The tennis balls and the container must be cleansed by moving them to the inner circle. The balls must be in their container, but cannot be put there until the container has been cleansed (the container must be moved to the inner circle, before the tennis balls can go in.) The tennis ball container must then be put into the rarified astro quantum clarifier (okay, I just made that up – it's the soup can), before the world is safe again.
2. No one may cross the plane of the circle with any part of their body. Otherwise, they will get radiation burns and may have to recuperate (be removed from play.)
3. No one is allowed to sacrifice himself/herself for the good of the group.
4. Because of the toxicity of the radiation, no one is allowed to handle the ropes or the balls longer than two minutes. A recovery time of two minutes is necessary before a member can handle the ropes or tennis balls again.
5. The facilitator can alter rules as they see fit.

Process questions:

1. Talk about your planning process
2. What helped/hindered accomplishing your goal?
3. How did you handle different ideas?
4. Talk about your communication patterns - What worked, what didn't?
5. Describe the leadership exhibited

Alternatives: