

TITLE: Bucket and Rope

IMPACT: Team building, group cooperation, communication

RISK: Medium - may be physically challenging for some people

GROUP SIZE: 6 or more

TIME REQUIRED: 15-60 minutes

DIRECTIONS:

- Place the two smaller ropes parallel to each other on the ground about ten feet apart. These mark the start and finish lines. Tie the large rope to a tree branch in between the other two ropes so that a person can swing across from behind one rope line to beyond the second one without touching the ground.
- Tell the group they are lost in the wilderness and must stick together if they want to survive. They have only one bucket of water for drinking and must not spill it. They have come to a river filled with crocodiles and must get the entire group and the bucket of water across safely.
- The group begins by standing together behind the starting line. Hand one person the bucket of water. The bucket should be filled halfway with water.
- Explain to them that first they need to get the hanging rope from between the two logs without anyone touching the area on the ground that is between the ropes on the ground (the start and finish line).
- After getting the hanging rope, each person in the group needs to swing from the start line to the finish line without falling or touching the ground and get the bucket across without the water spilling.
- If any one touches the area between the lines, everyone must go back to the starting line and begin again.
- If water spills from the bucket, the group must start over as well.
- Tell the group that you will give them five minutes to discuss strategies and from then on they must not talk to each other.

DISCUSSION: Have participants discuss the following:

- How did participants solve the problem?
- What roles did people play in this activity
- What did participants learn about teamwork?
- How would you approach the activity differently if you were asked to solve it again?

OPTION: For low functioning groups, it may be important to let them talk during the activity.

