

TITLE: Links In My Chain

IMPACT: Requires focus, concentration, problem solving, teamwork and consensus building

RISK: Low - medium

GROUP SIZE: 5 or more

TIME REQUIRED: 10 - 30 minutes

DIRECTIONS:

- Tie each length of rope in a circle. Each rope or string should be about 6-8 feet long. One of the five lengths should be tied so that it passes through all the other circles of rope, similar to the ring on a key chain. The other circles should all be independent of one another. Mix the ropes up in a pile on the floor.
- Ask the group to assemble around the pile of ropes.
- Tell them that their task is to determine which is the rope that is linked to all the others.
- They are not allowed to touch the ropes at any time.
- They must decide by reaching consensus - not a majority vote. (Make sure everyone knows what consensus means.)
- When a consensus is reached, one person can pick up the rope that they think is the link to see if they are correct.

DISCUSSION:

- How did the group solve this problem?
- Was their agreement right from the beginning, or were there several opinions?
- How was consensus reached? Was there one person or many who argued for a particular rope?
- How did it feel to be part of a community where everyone had to agree instead of letting the majority rule? What were the positives, and what were the challenges?
- Give examples of majority rule vs. consensus from other experiences.

OPTION:

- To make this easier, use different colored ropes.
- To make this more challenging, add more ropes.
- After completing it successfully one time, mix the ropes up again and ask the group to repeat the activity without talking.

