

Group Juggling

Organize group into a circle and leader begins setting up pattern tossing object back and forth across the circle and back until everyone has been included in the pattern. The hitch is that they need to say the name of the person they are throwing the object to. Once the group feels comfortable with the pattern after several repetitions start another object ---establishing a new pattern until it gets back to the leader. No one can throw it to the same person as before in establishing the new Pattern. Practice the new pattern a couple of times and then add the original object and pattern back in. You may add another object and pattern if you think the group can handle it.

Processing for Program Planning and Group Building:

①Tasks

- We can do incredibly more as a group than each of us individually can do. But it takes working together, setting a goal, each taking a part.
- Any large task is much easier when broken down into it's smallest activity. Then it is manageable. Group Juggling is really two simple tasks, receiving the ball from one person and throwing the ball to another person.
- Think of your 4H meeting as a task like group juggling that requires everyone's input and participation and effort to complete. Do all your 4H'ers, right now, feel like it would make any difference if they weren't at the meeting or did not take part. It is so important for youth to feel a part of your 4H meeting. That it would make a difference if they were not at the meeting. This is the challenge of the 4H leader. Does the meeting really depend on the youth for ideas and decisions? Maybe your club might want to set a group goal of looking at decisions. Where, why and how do we make decisions for ourselves and then for the club. Take their outside decision making experience and apply it to their club.
- In order to juggle 6- 8 balls, six people can't sit back and watch two or three people do the work or the group will spend hours trying and probably quit.
- If one person is pulled from the group, how do the others react? This is similar to when someone decides that if they go to the meeting or not, no big deal, they won't be missed. How did you feel when the person just wandered off? Were any of you angry, any confused as to how to fix it?

What did you do to overcome it. This is a very clear experience to show how the group feels when a member sits back or leaves.

①Communication

- When few things are being communicated, it is much easier to give and receive messages.
- When more and more messages are being communicated, it is harder to pay attention, or stay on task. Think about our 4H Meetings and apply. Is it easy to have a 4H meeting when everyone is competing to communicate either constructively or negatively? Distractions make it much more difficult to communicate.
- Communication requires a prepared listener and a careful sender of information. You as the sender are responsible for making sure the receiver is paying attention and is ready to receive the ball. You are also responsible as a receiver to pay attention to the sender.