

HOUDINI HOOPS

WHAT TO SAY

Some tasks may seem like they can be rushed through. However, it's important to evaluate the scenario and agree on the best way to proceed with your team.

Caution: Communication can lead things to going badly when we communicate impulsively, without patience and without thought. In this case, it can damage friendships and relationships.

What and how we choose to communicate is important and within our personal control.

Requires Resources? Yes
Grade Level: 3-5; 6-8; 9-12
Indoor/Outdoor: Outdoor
Group Size: 10+

WHAT TO DO

- ▶ Have the teens split into two groups. Each group should form a circle, connecting hands with the people next to them.
- ▶ The object of the game is to see how quickly you can move a hoop around the circle without letting go of your hands.
- ▶ Have the groups race against each other. If you don't have enough teens to form two groups, use one large group and have them race to get it around the circle within a certain amount of time.
- ▶ To make it more difficult and focus more explicitly on communication, tell the youth that they must keep their eyes closed (a group will need to start over from the beginning if they are caught with their eyes open). This forces the teens to communicate using their words to get the hoop around the circle. If they let go of one another's hands, the hula hoop has to start at the beginning once more.

WHAT TO ASK

- ▶ What did good communication look like in this game? (Pull for clear instructions and communication of where the hoop is, being slow and patient and not criticizing or blaming.)
- ▶ What made it difficult to hear the person next to you when you were trying to get the hoop past you? (Pull for importance of one person talking at a time.)
- ▶ What did poor communication look like in this game? (Pull for lack of clarity, too many people talking at once, talking too fast and being impatient and critical.)
- ▶ What made it hard to communicate clearly? (This might be other people talking at the same time or getting impatient.)
- ▶ What makes it hard to communicate clearly in other settings, like at school, at home with family, or with friends and peers?

COMMUNICATION