

In a 4-H Community, Everyone Pulls Together

Description: Participants will use string and rubber bands to stack plastic cups into a pyramid.

Purpose: To see the importance of working together as a community to accomplish a task.

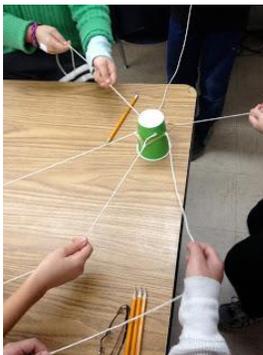
Time: 10 – 12 minutes.

Age/Grade Level: Cloverbuds and up. Try to mix the ages on the teams.

Suggestions: Have the string pieces cut and tied to the rubber bands before you begin. Have extra rubber bands because some may break. Cut apart the labels on the second page.

Materials: For each group of 6 participants, you will need:

- 6 plastic cups
- 1 rubber band with 6 strings tied to it. The strings should be approximately all of the same length, and fairly evenly spaced around the rubber band.
- 6 paperclips
- 6 slips of paper labeled with components of 4-H: project leaders, general leaders, county & state staff, youth leaders, community support / donors, club members.



What To Do: Begin with the cups stacked upside down on the table. Each person slides one of paper clips with a slip of paper clipped in it onto one of the strings. Then each person holds one of the strings by the free end. Each person needs to pull on his / her string so that as a group they open the rubber band enough to fit it around the top cup on the stack, then close the rubber band enough for the band to grasp the cup. Using this method (and



never touching the cups with their hands!) they must grasp, lift, reposition, and release each cup from the stack and place it on the table to build a pyramid.

Reflection Questions:

- Did the group need to communicate to accomplish the task? Would it be harder to do if participants were not allowed to talk?
- Did anyone in the group give directions or take the lead?
- Would this be possible with only 2 or even 3 strings?
- Besides 4-H, where else are teamwork, cooperation, leadership, and listening skills needed?

Developed By: Jane Dean

Sources: <http://mssepp.blogspot.com/2012/11/teamwork-cup-stack.html> (activity)
www.rundesroom.com (photo of cups)

Project Leaders

Youth Leaders

General Leaders

Club Members

County & State Staff

Community Supporters /
Donors