

Stack the Deck

Explore areas of teamwork and nonverbal communication with this engaging activity

Description: Participants will learn the virtues of nonverbal communication through this simple activity

Purpose: To develop teamwork and communication skills through an engaging game

Time: 5 minutes

Age: All ages; more suitable for elementary-middle school age youth

Suggestions: Find an area with enough space to move around in

Materials: A standard deck of cards without Jokers

What To Do:

1. Give each participant one card from the deck. You will have to adjust the number of suits you use and which numbers you use depending on how many participants there are. Ex. if you have 24 participants, you could use the first 6 numbers from each suit, the first 8 numbers from 3 suits, everything except the jacks from 2 suits, etc.
2. Do not let them show each other what card they have. If you are concerned with cheating, have them return the card before the activity starts.
3. Without speaking, participants will have to break up into groups based on which suit they have. Ex. Hearts go together, Diamonds go together, Clubs go together, and Spades go together
4. Once that is completed, have them line up in order of the face value of their card
 - a. Once again, they cannot talk or show each other their card
5. For an extra challenge, have them do it blindfolded. (They can speak in this round)
 - a. This will be more time consuming, and may be better for an older audience

Reflection Questions:

How does this activity connect to the Special Emphasis theme of "4-H Grows"?
What did you learn about nonverbal communication?
(If done blindfolded instead of silent) What did you learn about verbal communication?
How does teamwork play a role in this activity?

Sources: "Nonverbal Communication Activities." *AboutEducation*. About.com, 11 July 2016. Web. 18 Sept. 2016.

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