

Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development Program

Building Leaders for Tomorrow

Instilling and developing leadership capabilities in youth and adults.

ACTIVITY 11 “Human Knot” and Tater People

AGE LEVEL - Beginning

CONCEPT OR SKILL – Teamwork and Cooperation

LIFE SKILL(s) –

Health – Self-responsibility, Self discipline

Hands – Contributions to Group Effort

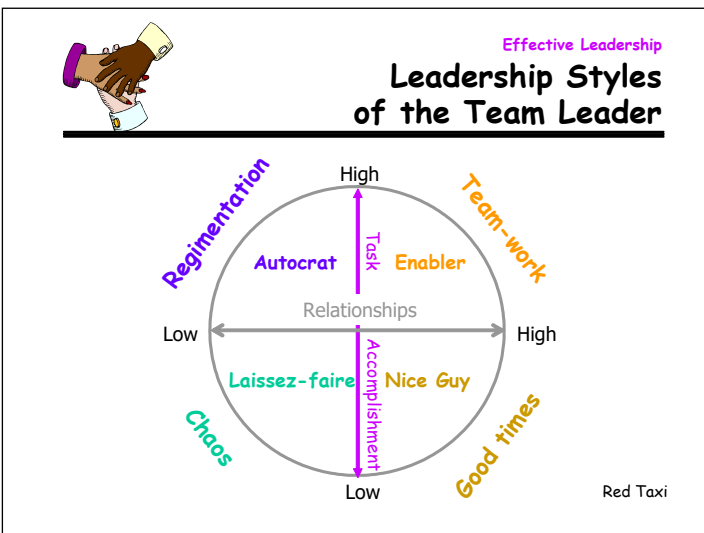
BEHAVIORAL INDICATOR – Group and club membership is important, and they enjoy symbols and ceremony.

THINGS TO KNOW:

Youth of all ages appreciate and respond well to physical challenges. Whether the physical activity is low, medium or high, youth love any excuse to get up and move around. This is a great opportunity for the volunteer to harness the excitement and find teachable moments during play and organized games.

A leadership style is created by the balance of concern for relationships (horizontal line) with a balance of concern for task accomplishment (vertical line). Four forms of leadership result regimented (strict), teamwork (everyone works together), chaos (nothing gets done and everyone is miserable) and good times (people have fun but nothing is accomplished).

- The **enabler** has a high concern for relationships and a high concern for task accomplishment.
- A leader, who has a high concern for getting the job done but a low concern for an individuals work, is in the style of an **autocrat**.
- A leader who enjoys being with other persons, but has a low concern for getting the job done works in the style of a **nice guy**.
- The person who is concerned neither for other people or for getting the job done is seldom invited to assume a leadership role; the style would be described as **laissez-faire**.



The leader who helps a group of people become a team by involving them in planning and decision making process in an **enabler**. This leadership style cares for people and helps people to accomplish tasks. The enabler does not do it for them. The enabler develops each person’s talents and provides opportunities for success and growth.

Another fun analogy to describe leadership style is the “Tater People” poem.



ACTIVITY - “Human Knot”

Materials Needed: None.

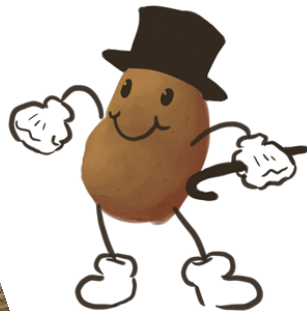
Do: Instruct the group to stand in a circle and reach out and grab hands with two different people in the group. They can connect with anyone, as long as that person is not to their direct right or left. Now have them twist and turn to try to get back to a circle, without letting go of the hand that they are holding.

Reflect:

- 1) How did you think and feel when presented with this challenge?
- 2) What forms of leadership did you see emerging? Were some loud and assertive? Were others quiet and just following directions? Did some just have fun and not contribute to the group goal? Were some people just apathetic and stand there?
- 3) Were there people who were nice/polite about seeing a solution and asking someone to try it?
- 4) Which style worked the best? Which style did you like the best?

Apply:

- 1) Is it okay to vary leadership styles depending on the situation? Name situations in the functioning of the club where each of styles would be appropriate or inappropriate?
- 2) Is there a place for leaders and followers?
- 3) Are both leaders and followers important in accomplishing group goals? Why?
- 4) Do you think leaders are born or developed?
- 5) Why do you think it is important for us to experience both the role of follower and leader?



ACTIVITY - “Tater People”

Materials Needed: Potatoes of all shapes, sizes and color, paper and pencil

Do: Divide into small groups. Give each group one potato. *Step 1:* Have them study the potato and make a list of the physical list features of the potato – shape, size, size, color, texture, unique characteristics, etc. *Step 2:* Have the group write a “short” story about an adventure the potato experienced.

Reflect:

- 1) How did you think and feel when presented with this challenge?
- 2) What forms of leadership did you see emerging? Were someone loud and assertive? Were others quiet and just following directions? Did some just have fun and not contribute to the group goal? Were some people just apathetic and stand there?
- 3) Were there people who were nice/polite about seeing a solution and asking someone to try it?
- 4) Which style worked the best? Which style did you like the best?

Apply:

- 1) Is it okay to vary leadership styles depending on the situation? Name situations in the functioning of the club where each of styles would be appropriate or inappropriate?
- 2) Is there a place for leaders and followers?
- 3) Are both leaders and followers important in accomplishing group goals? Why?
- 4) Do you think leaders are born or developed?
- 5) Why do you think it is important for us to experience both the role of follower and leader?
For a little fun, conclude the lesson with the “Tater People” poem.

ADAPTATIONS:

- A) Provide the group a potato and craft supplies. Give each group a slip of paper with the name of one “tator” named in the poem. Have them design a character representative of the name. Later they will describe the who, what, and why.

Source: Unknown



TATER PEOPLE

Author Unknown

Some people never seem motivated to participate,
but are just content to watch while others do the work.
They are called "Spectators".

Some people never do anything to help,
but are gifted at finding fault with the way others do the work.
They are called "Commentator".

Some people are very bossy and like to tell others what to do,
but don't want to soil their own hands.
They are called "Dictator".

Some people are always looking to cause problems
by asking others to agree with them. It is too hot or
too cold, too sour or too sweet.
They are called "Agitator".

There are those who say they will help,
but somehow just never get around to actually doing the promised help.
They are called "Hesitator".

Some people can put up a front and pretend to be
someone they are not.
They are called "Imitator".

Then there are those who love others and do
what they say they will. They are always prepared
to stop whatever they are doing and lend a helping
hand. They bring real sunshine into the lives of others.
They are called "Sweet Taters".

