



Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development Program

Building Leaders for Tomorrow

Instilling and developing leadership capabilities in youth and adults.

ACTIVITY 12: “Spider Web”

AGE LEVEL – Beginning, Intermediate

CONCEPT OR SKILL – (Beg.) Teamwork (Int.) Refining Leadership Skills –committee chair, officer, time management, working within limitations and boundaries

LIFE SKILL(s) – (Beg.) **Health** – Self-responsibility, Self-discipline; **Hands** – Contributions to Group Effort.(Int.) **Hands** – Teamwork, Marketable Skills; **Health** – Stress Management, Character; **Head** – Goal Setting

BEHAVIORAL INDICATOR – (Beg.) Group and club membership is important, and they enjoy symbols and ceremony. (Int.) Want to participate in decisions and be independent.

THINGS TO KNOW:

Youth at younger age levels can have difficulty in recognizing the connection between cause and effect. Because they think in concrete terms and have not yet developed the capability for abstract thought, it can be hard for a volunteer to communicate to them that their actions and reactions can affect others in a positive or negative way. To help youth understand the connection, visual activities and aids add a more concrete understanding to abstract thinking.

People generally remember:

10% of what they read

20% of what they hear

30% of what they see

50% of what they hear and see

70 % of what they say as they talk

80-90% of what they hear, see and do

This is an easy activity that can be done at the start of a meeting or before a new committee begins to function as a reminder that the participation and contributions of every member is essential for the success of the group. It demonstrates how we are all interconnected even though the connections may be difficult to see. It is also a good illustration for teaching responsibility, follow-through, and involving all input/contributions of everyone.



Materials Needed: A large ball of string or twine.

Do: Start with the group standing in a circle. Holding on to the end of a ball of yarn or string, call out someone else’s name and toss the ball to that person, without letting go of your end of the string. Have that person do the same, and so on until a giant spider web has been created and everyone is interconnected.

Reflect: 1) Do you think each member of the group will feel the impact resulting from the actions of one member of the team? After some discussion demonstrate the impact by having one or two people (with a light to medium) tug on the piece of string they are holding. How many other people can feel that tug? Did you feel more than one tug as a result? 2) What do you think would happen if just one person lets go or dropped out? Do others have to pick up the slack? How many people were affected?

Apply: 1) As a committee member/member of an officer team, what could happen if one person does not contribute or follow-through with their responsibility? 2) As a member of the team, unable to complete your task/assignment, what would be a mature thing to do to help the team be successful in accomplishing their goal? When should this take place? 3) Why is it important for everyone to work together and put forth their best effort? 4) In what ways can we use what was learned in this game to make our club a better team?

Source: Unknown

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service

