

Electric Fence

Overview

Electric Fence is a physically and socially challenging teambuilder that is best facilitated outdoors.

Materials

- *About a 5 metre rope*
- *About a 3 metre pole or 2x4*

Time

30-60 minutes

Audience

K-12

Procedure

The best place to set up this activity is between two trees in an open forest. This natural setting is the perfect place for students to collaborate to achieve a common goal. You will want to choose two trees that are no more than 5 metres apart and on relatively flat ground. Tie the rope tight between to the two trees at about 40" of height which is roughly waist high. You will want to adjust this for younger groups.

IMAGE

The groups challenge is to get everyone over the rope and these are guidelines:

- *No one can touch the rope at any time. It has imaginary electricity running through it! This includes touching the rope with other objects such as the pole/2x4. If (and when) a touch occurs that person must come back over and try again*
- *You cannot go around or under the rope*
- *You cannot use or touch the trees in attempt to get over*
- *You must figure out a method to get over safely. This is at the teacher's discretion. If the students look as if they are going to attempt something that is obviously dangerous please stop them.*

- *The only prop/tool they can use are themselves and the pole/2x4.*

Consider timing their attempts as many groups will want to challenge their own time. Groups will occasionally get stuck and leave the wrong people on the other side of rope. Allow them to start over, however everyone needs to come back to start again.

As this is a teambuilder and a challenge posed to the group you should attempt to not intervene with suggestions. However students can and do get really into this challenge and may become frustrated. Be careful not to let disagreements between team members turn into heated arguments. These moments of frustration can be important teachable moments if facilitated effectively. If things are really breaking down don't hesitate to sit the group down and talk about what's working and what's not and what they could do to work better as a team.

Risk Management

- *Remember to inspect the ground where you want to set up for rocks or other hard objects that could cause injury if a student fell. Winter time is a great season for this activity as the snow can cushion any falls, although a soft forest floor or grassy area are also suitable environments and will minimize risk.*
- *Ensure that students with pre-existing injuries are aware of the physically demanding nature of this challenge.*