Title: Group Knot

Category: Group Problem Solving

Number of Participants: 5 to 20 Participants

Time Required: 15 to 45 minutes

Objectives:

- To illustrate how the lack of a unified group process inhibits team success

- To encourage complex problem solving and the need for trial and error and risk-taking

- To reinforce need for both shifting leadership and open communication

Materials Needed:

- A 50 foot expanse of rope

- Masking tape

Trainer Instructions:

1. Place a snaked around length of rope on the ground

2. Have all participants pick up the rope with both hands with a person at each end of the rope and everyone else standing equidistant from each other

3. Trainer then tells group they cannot let the rope go or slide the rope through their hands. From this point on, the rope stays with each participant where it is now in both hands.

4. The trainer then decides a point in the rope where a knot is to appear, marks this place with a tab of masking tape and tasks the group to tie a knot in the rope at the designated spot.

*NOTES: A) Knots in the middle are more difficult to tie than knots toward the end of the rope.

B) Assign the task of multiple knots to increase the challenge.

C) Blindfolding and/or muting certain members of the team may increase the difficulty of the task and force the group to compensate by trying new roles

5. Debriefing Questions:

1. What made the group successful to the extent that it was?

2. Who showed leadership and in what way?

3. Once someone figured out how to tie a knot in the rope, how did that knowledge get transferred throughout the rope?

4. To what degree did the group feel competitive? Where did these feelings come from and to what degree did they help or hinder the group's progress?