

Title: Scout Signals - Senseless

Section: All sections Place: Indoors or outdoors Duration: 15 – 45 minutes Participants: Any number	
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SPCIES – Learning Objectives

Emotional – Know that is OK to talk to people I trust about how I feel

Social – Explore how people communicate

Intellectual – Be an active participant in a small group

Overview

- This activity helps to build trust within small groups and demonstrates the importance of being able to rely on and communicate in many ways with others.

Activity Objectives

- Develop communication skills – examine different ways we can communicate with others
- Discuss different methods of communication and their benefits and disadvantages
- Take part in at least one small group exercise where you must have trust in others
- Identify people in your life that you can trust and talk to

Materials

- Relevant materials for the chosen task
- Material to block senses – blindfold for sight, headphones or ear plugs for hearing, oven gloves/boxing gloves for feeling)

Description

- Identify a task to be completed
Note: The task should be a normal part of your programme cycle e.g. tent pitching, making a recipe, making and flying a paper airplane, blind fold walk through a maze, etc. Removing senses as part of a normal activity provides an opportunity to explore communication and diversity as an integral part of the programme.
- In small groups (lodges/sixes/patrols/crews), youth members attempt to complete the task with a sense or senses removed
- Discuss with the participants how it felt not to be able to hear, see, feel etc,
- Ask if they felt that they could trust the others in their group and what made it easy for them to trust them. Did they feel safe. Was it fun?
- Other questions you could pose
 - Did you manage to complete the task?
 - Did it take you much longer than normal? Why do you think this is?
 - How would you feel about living your life without that sense(s)?
 - Did work as a group help to overcome the loss of sense(s)?
 - Was anyone left out, why?

Reviews

- Pose the questions above as part of the reviews** depending on difficulty level of activity, ability of youth members and size of group
- Youth members bring to the group all different and diverse different, all different people have different senses removed, so all of the group have a single sense removed, or all of the group have different sense removed, etc
 - Different sense removed: etc
 - Rotate the leadership for the task between the differing members of the group so that they all have an opportunity to coordinate a group which has differing capabilities

Notes

- This technique is sometimes used to ensure that participants have the level of proficiency in a skill required to carry it out in difficult circumstances e.g. blindfold tent pitching so that tents can be pitched in the dark.
- Extending the technique to diverse skills and tasks on an ongoing basis, and to the different senses, provides for more learning opportunities across the SPICES