

# Exploring Leadership

## TEAMWORK: COLLABORATION

“Two heads are better than one,” so the old saying goes. Collaboration is the key to teamwork. If you break the word into its roots (-co- and -labor-), you see that Collaboration literally means work together. Sharing your ideas with others provides feedback and generates new ideas.

### CONVERSATION STARTERS:

- Think of the last time you collaborated with other people on something like a project or game? How did it go? Did you experience roadblocks? If so, what were they?

Working with others can sometimes save you from hitting a dead end. Accepting and learning from a coworker’s ideas can be exciting and beneficial for everyone on the team.

### KEY OBJECTIVES:

- Value the advantage of different perspectives, skills and resources of others.
- Apply elements of collaboration in their own personal life.
- Identify roles within the collaboration.

### WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- 12-ft string/rope/webbing with ends tied together to form a circle
- Large bag of candy (at least 2-3 pieces per participant)
- Large open space

## EXPLORATION ACTIVITY:

Tell participants they will be playing Survival. The game has three elements: 1) They will be put into 4-5 teams or “Clans”. 2) They will be given a circle of string that designates the boundaries of their clan village. 3) They will be given some (10-25) pieces of candy that will represent the resources (food, water, fuel, etc.) to keep their clan alive. The object of the game is to maximize the number of resources within their own village (I.e., get the most candy!).

### FACILITATION TIPS:

- Encourage every member of each team to participate. Consider using external motivation by offering a prize for the winning team: a small gift card, candy, etc.
- Call out the remaining time on the clock for the last 15 seconds.
- Players may only take one piece of candy/resource at a time from another circle and place it their own circle. Players can not throw candy or physically /prevent others from taking candy.
- Each round lasts one minute. When the instructor says “Go!” a mad dash will occur as players scurry to steal another circle’s resources.
- Tally resources at the end of each round.
- After 2 rounds, instruct the teams that they can move their circles to another location if they would like.



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

Ask: Where could you move your circle to maximize your resources in your village boundaries (the circle)? Allow time from team/clan to discuss their strategies. Eventually the participants may team up with another team by placing physical boundaries of each team's circle on top of the other. You may need to ask questions or listen to and emphasize points team members make to encourage Collaboration. When/If everyone pools their resources to maximize their resources, move to the next set of questions:

- How successful was your team? What defined success?
- When did your team members fully become collaborators?
- What was different between collaborating within your team, and with other teams?
- What obstacles prevented Collaboration?

## APPLICATION DISCUSSION:

What are the elements of Collaboration?

- Communicate with each other.
- Share resources.
- Develop a strategy.
- How can you use these elements within your council?
- How is collaborating with your council different from collaborating with strangers? Why?
- How can you use Collaboration in your own personal relationships?
- How would this activity be different if you could not communicate by talking?



## CONCLUSION:

Collaboration helps any team explore and access new resources including the various talents every member has to offer. Youth councils share the work load and provide a diverse perspective when they pool their abilities. There are many roles to fulfill including, leaders, creators, builders, executors and followers.

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