



Exploring Leadership

TEAMWORK: COLLABORATION

"Two heads are better than one," as the saying goes, and collaboration strengthens teamwork. The word collaboration comes from the Latin roots co- and labor-, meaning "to work together." When people collaborate, they bring diverse perspectives and skills, helping teams tackle challenges and achieve better outcomes.

CONVERSATION STARTERS:

Think about the last time you worked with others on something like a project or game. How did it go? Did you experience roadblocks? If so, what were they?

Collaboration helps you move forward when you're stuck, turning challenges into opportunities. Teamwork not only boosts creativity but also builds trust, strengthens relationships, and fosters a sense of belonging, making the entire group more effective and successful.

EXPLORATION ACTIVITY:

Welcome to Survival! In this fun activity, you'll work as a team to protect your resources while learning the importance of strategy and teamwork.

FACILITATION TIPS:

- Encourage everyone to participate.
- Optional: Reward the winning team with a small prize like candy or stickers.
- Announce the last 15 seconds of each round.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- Recognize how different skills and ideas make teamwork stronger.
- Learn to plan and apply collaboration in daily life.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- One 12-ft string or rope tied into a circle for each team
- Candy (10–25 pieces per team)
- Timer or stopwatch
- Large open space

- Divide the group into 3–4 teams. Each team is a Clan with a village marked by a string circle on the ground.
- Place 10–25 pieces of candy in each circle as resources like food, water, and fuel.
- The goal is to gather the most resources (candy) from other villages. Here's how:
 - When the timer starts, participants can take one piece of candy at a time from another village and bring it back.
 - No throwing candy or physically blocking others.
 - Each round lasts one minute.
 - After each round, count and compare resources.
- After two rounds, Clans can move their village to a new spot to gather more resources. Say: "Where could you move your village to gather the most resources? Take 30 seconds to brainstorm strategies with your team and move your circle."
- Continued on next page...



EXPLORATION ACTIVITY (CONTINUED):

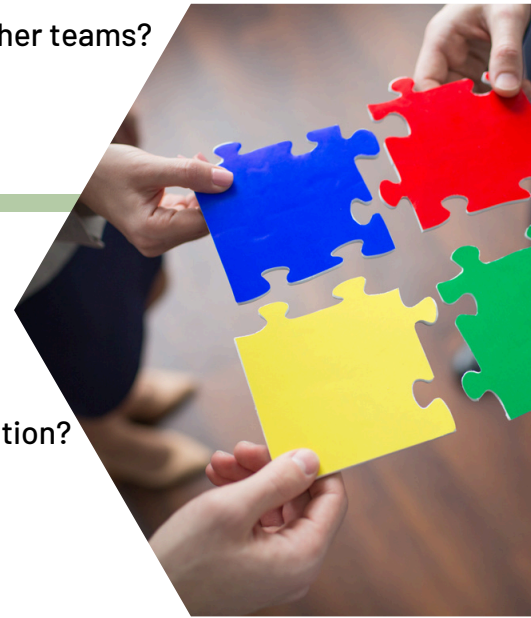
- Play another round, then pause to discuss strategies. Repeating this for as many rounds as needed.
- Encourage collaboration by asking questions and highlighting how teamwork improves results.
- Eventually, suggest that teams combine efforts by overlapping their circles with another Clan's boundary to pool resources. With collaboration, they might even merge all the teams and share resources for greater success.

APPLICATION DISCUSSION:

- What defined success for your team, and how successful were you?
- When did your team members fully become collaborators?
- What was different about collaborating within your team and with other teams?
- What obstacles prevented collaboration?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- What do you think the key elements of collaboration are?
 - Clear communication between team members.
 - Sharing resources and ideas to reach a common goal.
 - Creating a strategy that aligns everyone's efforts.
- How would this activity change if you couldn't use verbal communication?
- How is collaborating with your council different from working with strangers? Why?
- How can you apply these elements within your council?
- How can you use collaboration skills in your personal relationships?



CONCLUSION:

Collaboration helps any team unlock new opportunities by tapping into the unique talents each member brings. Youth councils share the workload and gain valuable insights by combining their abilities. Within a council, there are many important roles to fill, such as leaders, creators, builders, and followers, all of which contribute to achieving the group's goals. Each role contributes to achieving the group's goals, showing how diverse perspectives can make teamwork stronger.

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REFERENCES

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- Six Crucial Behaviors Of Collaborative Leaders: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/carolkinseygoman/2017/07/11/six-crucial-behaviors-of-collaborative-leaders/#c06efcd8cbe3>