Indiana 4-H Teens as Teachers- Teen Leadership

Topic: A Cross- Cultural Simulation

Age Level: Teens

Supplies:

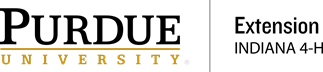
* Enough country cards for each person in a group to have one that explains their culture.
* 2 different colors of dots so we know which culture the participants are in
* 4 packages of playing cards
* 2 bells
* Minimal of three people to lead the activity (one for each room and one person to escort the participants to different countries)
* This activity requires two rooms for participants to be in
* Flip chart paper and markers

Objective:

Build awareness of how cultural differences can profoundly impact people in an organization. Motivate participants to rethink their behavior and attitude towards others. Allow participants to examine their own bias and focus on how they perceive differences. Examine how stereotypes and developed, barriers created, and misunderstandings magnified. Identify diversity issues within the organization that must be addressed.

Activity:

1. Divide the group up into two groups. (Country A and Country Z)
2. Have the groups go into different groups
3. Discuss and go over their new culture
4. Practice being Country A or Country Z (religion, language, behaviors, values, etc.)



1. Once each room feels their group is ready to ask for 2 volunteers to trade places and travel to the other country. (So you are switching 4 people) Remind them that we take our culture and values with us when we travel. After a couple minutes, have everyone go back to their home land and ask for 2 more volunteers. Keep doing until everyone has had an experience in another country. DO NOT SEND SOMEONE OVER ALONE TO THE OTHER COUNTRY.

Reflection:

1. After visiting is completed, the facilitator asks the participants to describe the inhabitants of the other country. One or two participants record the discussion on the flip chart.
2. The groups come back together to discuss their observations. Have the groups stay seated in their country. Ask each country to share their findings about the other country.
3. After the lists are completed, the facilitators ask the participants if anyone from either country would like to switch to the other country. Why do or do not wish to change countries? How do you feel about someone wanting to switch out of your country?
4. Is there anything you would like to ask the other country for clarification?
5. How can we apply this activity to the real world?
   1. What have been your experiences with other cultures?
   2. How was your communication affected?
   3. Have you ever had anyone question your values and beliefs?

