



Teen Leadership 20

Intended Audience:

- Teens

Lesson Objectives:

Participants will:

- Be presented with a problem to solve through a series of decision-making activities

Time: 20 minutes

Equipment and supplies:

- Clear Jar
- Small piece of paper and pencil
- Approx. 100-200 pieces of candy such as Jelly Beans, M&Ms, Skittles, or similar candy. *Be mindful of any possible allergies.

Do Ahead:

- Count number of candy pieces in the jar and write the number on a piece of paper taped to the bottom of the jar.

Decision Making

BACKGROUND

Making decisions can be challenging. Often times, working in teams can lead to more effective decision making than when working alone.

WHAT TO DO

Activity:

- Ask the group to answer the following question: “Why do we work in teams to accomplish many of our tasks?” Allow participants an opportunity to brainstorm and share. Explain that often times, we work in teams to have a better outcome than we would as an individual.
- Distribute a piece of paper and pencil to each participant and ask them to number from 1 to 4.
- Show participants the jar of candy and ask them to write down a guess of how many pieces of candy are in the jar next to #1.
- Ask participants to find a partner and as a team, come to a consensus on the number of pieces of candy in the jar. Instruct participants to write this number down next to #2.
- Ask each partner pair to find another partner pair, forming a group of 4 and to come to a consensus on the number of pieces of candy in the jar. Instruct participants to write this number down next to #3.
- Ask each group of 4 to find another group of 4, forming a group of 8 and to come to a consensus on the number of pieces of candy in the jar. Instruct participants to write this number down next to #4.
- Now, check the bottom of the jar and compare answers to the correct answer.



TALK IT OVER

Reflect:

- How did your numbers change as your group got bigger?
- Was your individual guess closer to the actual number compared to any of your teams?
- How did you work through differences in opinion? Did that affect the decision process?
- Was your answer closer with your group of 2, 4, or 8 people?
- Which size group was most comfortable to work with?

Apply:

- Can you think of a time when teamwork helped a group accomplish a task?
- Why is it easier to make a decision as part of a team than as an individual?
- What different decision-making strategies were used? Did the strategy change as the group size changed?

Please take time to complete the Participant and Facilitator evaluations, found online at go.osu.edu/TeenLeadership20.

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