Cooperation

Level: Grades K-12

Purpose: Students will define “cooperation” and experience activities which require cooperation.

Materials: Masking tape.

Activity: Begin by holding up a large sign with the word “cooperation.” Give examples of people cooperating to achieve a common goal. Have the students come up with their own definition of cooperation. Play the following cooperation games emphasizing how working together is the only way to “win.”

1. “SIT DOWN CIRCLE:” Have the students stand in a circle, front to back. On the count of “three,” all students sit down slowly on the person’s lap behind him or her. They have to work together to keep from falling. (You might wish to separate males and females for this activity.)
2. “STAND UP CIRCLE:” Have four students sit on the floor, back to back. Tell them to lock arms. At the count of “three,” they are to attempt to stand up without unlinking arms.
3. “KNOTS:” Have 6 to 8 students hold hands in a straight line. Without letting their hands go, have the group “tie up in a knot.” Have them work together to “get out of the knot” and back into a straight line.
4. “WALKING THE LINE:” Place a line of masking tape on the floor. Have three students stand at each end of the line. Have one student from each end walk toward each other. Their task is to help each other pass one another while not stepping off the line.

Closure: Ask 2 or 3 students to sum up what they learned about cooperation, or if time permits, do a go-around with each student completing the following statement: “I learned or relearned today that….”