



Brightwater Site

Out-of Sight on SPS Land: Team Building Program

In this program, you get to work solo, tandem and as a team to accomplish some amazing feats. The challenges include in order of flow from solo to tandem to group experiences:

1. Solo – Still Hunting page
2. Tandem - Hug a Tree Trust Walk page 28
3. Solo - Blind Trust Obstacle Course page 30
4. Group - Toxic Turnover
5. Solo Connections – this is optional – a chance to sit solo on a sit upon and then debrief the experience through journal or circle sharing.

This is a nature immersion and team-building program. These activities seem to flow well from one to another. The games are from Sharing Nature with Children by Joseph Cornell. The kit at Brightwater contains blindfolds. Encouraging students to show respect for each other and for nature is integral to the program as is connection with the environment through the senses.

Activity Explanations on SPS Land by Schoolhouse:

Solo – Still Hunting page

Location: Head to path down and behind Schoolhouse. Don't let students wander further than you can see them.

Scenario: You have the challenge of sitting silently, away from your friends – at least 5 meters. You need to be able to share something fascinating that you observed in nature. Try to see as the coyote or another predator or prey might. Group up and debrief observations after one minute.

Tandem - Hug a Tree Trust Walk page 28

Location: Head down toward trees by the bridge on the gravel road on SPS land.

Scenario: You have used your sense of sight to notice colors, textures and motion. Now we will take that sense away. But you will have a lifeline – your buddy will take you blindfolded to a tree. You need to get to know the tree. Then you will be returned to the start to find your tree unblindfolded. A trust activity is just that – the leader needs to walk as slowly as the unseeing person guiding by holding on to the elbow. Once the tree is found, switch roles.

Solo or Tandem - Blind Trust Obstacle Course page 30

Location: This course will be set up and taken down the day of the program. So its' location will vary.

Scenario: Now your group has entirely lost the sense of sight. You need hang on to the cord to guide you up, down, over and under obstacles. If the cord seems to go down, DUCK!. If you sense something to step over, do so carefully. Good luck!

FACILITATORS: start next walker after first one passes along a good distance away. Walk around to survey the group for safety. If the group seems to require that a guide would be more appropriate, have partner lead unseeing buddy and then switch roles. Monitor students to ensure they are safe. When first kids finish challenge, ask them to remain silent or spot possible trouble areas and ensure others are safe.

Group – Flying Carpet

Location: Use the site by the Straw Bale Loo so that others groups do not see the solution to this game. The grey/ white tarp located in the Out-of-Sight kit.

Scenario: Everyone jump onto the flying carpet white side. You have been flying around Brightwater for a while when someone realizes that the carpet works better when it is grey. Your challenges is to turn over the carpet without anyone falling off so that everyone is on the white carpet. Oh and by the way, all of you are blindfolded. So be careful out there. Good luck!

Facilitator – You can also try this activity without blindfolding students if you think that would be a bit more sane and appropriate for your group.

Solo Connections

Location: By adopted trees

Scenario: Have a seat by your adopted tree. Pause to look around, listen, notice what you can when not moving around. What do you notice that is simply 'out of sight'? Share observations in a circle in your group. See if this time your still hunting skills are improved.

Close the experience by debriefing what the students liked the best, something they noticed and the role of teamwork.

Questions to Ponder

What values were evident during the session? (Trust, responsibility, respect)

Which tasks were most challenging?

What were some fun parts of the program?

Thank your for facilitating the program.

