



ENHANCING THE CLUB EXPERIENCE.....

HAT TRICK

OVERVIEW

This activity allows participants to: understand the impact of non-verbal communication., first impressions, and stereotyping.

LIFE SKILLS

- Verbal Communication
- Non-verbal Communication
- Accepting Differences

MATERIALS NEEDED

Large Bag or Box

Different types of hats (ie. cowboy hat, baseball hat, hard hat, clown wig, fireman hat, chef hat, army helmet, etc....)

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

Have a volunteer come to the front of the room and face the group. Pull a hat out of the bag/box and place it on the volunteer's head.

Ask the group the following questions:

Who is this person's occupation?

What kind of transportation does this person have?

What kind of personality does this person have?

What are this person's strengths / weaknesses?

What else can you tell me about this person?

Continue to put different hats on the volunteer, asking the same questions each time.

RELAX AND REFLECT (Activity Time: 15 minutes)

Ask these questions after all hats have been used:

1. How did opinions change with each hat that was shown?
2. Do your attitudes/actions change depending on what you are wearing?
3. For example, do you think a police officer has a different way of acting when in uniform than on the weekend when he may be playing baseball with friends?
4. What phrase describes the way we were evaluating someone based on their hat? (stereotyping)
5. Are we guilty of stereotyping in the real world based on our first impressions?

APPLY

When have you made a wrong judgment based on a first impression?

How can communication change a first impression?

TAKE HOME

Next time you make a first impression about someone, try communicating with that person to truly get an idea of what this person is like. Remember, you may end up making a great friend that you might not have ever talked to, just because they dress or look differently than you.

Activity submitted by: Garry Branham, Texas AgriLife Extension Service



TEXAS 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

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