



Explore Tactics

Exercise: Experiential Exercise for Understanding a Strategic Path

Methodology:

This activity will help the group to better understand the concept, meaning and importance of a “strategic path”. This exercise is best done prior to the Exercise for Developing a Strategic Path and Developing a Plan of Action. The “strategic path” exercise provides the opportunity for the group to:

- ✓ Experience how to work together to achieve a **specific goal**.
- ✓ Experience how members of the group take different roles and responsibilities.
- ✓ Experience creating an actual “path” to reach a goal using scarce resources.

Objectives:

1. To provide the group an opportunity to reach a specific and fun goal (“chocolate mountain”).
2. To provide group members an opportunity to take leadership and support roles.
3. To understand the concept of a “strategic path.”

Getting Ready:

This exercise will take 15 minutes.

You will need sheets of paper (blank or re-cycled A-4 paper or magazine pages); a chair; and chocolate candy (enough pieces of candy for the whole group).

Facilitation Note:

This exercise is helpful in providing the group with a “hands-on” experience of determining strategy and tactics to create a concrete “path” to reach a specifically stated goal (“to reach chocolate mountain before the other team”). This exercise fosters group cooperation and problem solving while also energizing the group. Prepare in the room a place with a chair and put candy on the chair (enough for ONE group to win).



The Group Exercise Process:

- Divide the group into two teams (counting off teams by random numbering – 1,2,1,2 etc. – works well and fast).
- Tell the two teams that their goal will be to reach “chocolate mountain” and get the reward. (Do not let the group know that there is enough candy for everyone, you want to motivate them to try to reach the goal first.)
- Provide each team with three sheets LESS than the number of people on the team. (e.g., if there are 10 team members, provide only 7 sheets of paper)
- Instruction: The goal for each team is to get their ENTIRE team to “chocolate mountain” BEFORE they can claim the prize. All members of the team have to arrive AND no one can move forward without having their feet on a piece of paper. Then tell them “GO”!

Reflection and Sharing:

- What was their experience in trying to complete this challenge?
- How is this exercise like our real life efforts to make change?
- What was difficult? What was easy?
- What roles did they notice people taking?
- What group dynamics emerged?
- What do they wish they had done differently?
- What are they most proud about?

Provide everyone with a piece of chocolate as their “reward” for going up Chocolate Mountain!

Source: Developed by Julien Courson, MENA New Tactics Lead Trainer, October 2013.

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