



VENTURING · BSA

Organization Module 1 - Paper Tower

- Learning Objectives** At the end of this session, each participant should be able to:
- Understand the critical role of planning in leadership
 - See the difference between a planned and an unplanned activity
 - Participate in planning an activity in a group setting
-

Preparation Meet with crew officers in advance. Have a date tentatively set for an activity in the near future.

Materials Needed Two letter size sheets of construction paper per team (each team has three to five people)
Two 20" strips of clear tape per team
One pair of scissors per team

Make copies or a poster of the Seven Steps of Good Planning (see appendix H).

Make one copy of the activity planner worksheet (both sides, see appendix J).

Two sets of prizes for the winning teams (prizes could be anything you decide.)

Introduction

Introduce this activity by dividing the group into teams of three to five people. Announce that each team's mission is to construct a tower as high as possible using only what has been placed in front of them.

Material for each group:

One sheet of letter-size construction paper
Twenty inches of clear tape
One pair of scissors

Activity

State or post the rules of the game:

- There is a 25 minute time limit.
- No other materials or tools may be used.
- The tower must be freestanding and remain freestanding for at least 60 seconds.
- The tower cannot be taped to the floor or any other support.
- The team engineering the tallest tower wins a prize.

Begin the activity. Allow the teams to construct their towers for 25 minutes, measure the towers, and recognize the winning team.

Reflection

Assemble the group in a half circle and ask:

What does the skill of planning have to do with this exercise?

Was there a time in this project when you wanted to start over?

Was it difficult getting the group to agree on what steps to take?

Was the final product visualized in advance, or did it just happen?

Seven Steps of Good Planning

Distribute copies or display a poster of the Seven Steps of Good Planning. (see appendix H).

Briefly discuss each point.

After reviewing the seven steps, repeat the Paper Tower exercise with new supplies. This time give a 10 minute time limit. Encourage the participants to utilize the seven steps.

After the second round of tower building, ask:

What was different the second time?

Did planning improve the final product and reduce the time needed to complete it?

Plan a Crew Activity

After a short break, sit down with the crew and plan an actual crew activity using the Activity Planner. (see appendix J).

Distribute copies of the Activity Planner and work through the planning process. Fill in the "Date" line on the front page with the date already scheduled by the crew officers.

Be sure that specific assignments are recorded on the "Jobs to be done" portion of the worksheet, and assignments made on the "Assigned To" lines provided.

Follow-up is vital. This event should happen on the set date as it was planned by the crew.

End of Session