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Sigma Nu Recruitment

Building Rock Chapters

Mrs. Potato Head Exercise

TIME: 20 - 30 minutes

GOAL: For participants to use communication and teamwork to successfully assemble Mrs. Potato Head.

OPTIMAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 4-7 per group (one Mrs. Potato Head per group)

DIRECTIONS: Spread your guys into groups of four to seven, with one doll per group. If you have fewer than 12 guys, break into two groups and have each group follow the directions for the option of their choosing and conclude with processing questions.

Option #1.

- Without telling the group what they are about to assemble, blindfold them and have them sit on the floor in a circle. Next spread the disassembled doll and accessories in the center of the circle.
- In front of you is your task; you need to work as a team to fully assemble it as accurately as possible. You have __ minutes to complete your task. Begin now.

Option #2.

- Blindfold all of the group members except one, who will act as the team leader. Have all of the blindfolded members sit on the floor in a circle. Next spread the disassembled doll and accessories in the center of the circle. Have the team leader remain standing.
- In front of you is your task, under the direction of your team leader, by his voice only, fully assemble it as accurately as possible. You have __ minutes to complete your task, begin now. (Do not let the team leader touch the pieces or physically interact in any way he is to lead by voice command only.)

Option #3.

- Appoint a team leader and have all of the remaining group members sit in a circle on the ground. In the center of the circle place a fully assembled Mrs. Potato Head.
- In front of you is your task; you have fifteen seconds to observe the doll your team will be assembling once you all are blindfolded.
- 15 seconds later blindfold the entire team and while they are blindfolded disassemble the doll. Next spread the disassembled doll and accessories in the center of the circle.
- You have minutes to complete your task of reassembling the doll. Begin now.

PROCESSING QUESTIONS:

- Was this exercise challenging or frustrating? Why or Why Not?
- Team A/B: Did you feel helpless when you had no clear vision of what you were assembling?
- Team B: Did you enjoy having directions barked at you?
- *How did your group approach this task?*
- What lines of communication were used during this challenge? Did your communication approach change during the exercise?
- Team C: Did having a clear, shared vision of your task help you?
- When do focus, communication, and frustration affect you chapter's successes?
- What does this mean, or how does it relate to you as a chapter leader?