

## Blind Square

Goal: Blindfolded participants must use a rope to make one giant square.

Intention: This activity focuses on communication, problem solving, leadership, and our connections to the people in our community.

Supplies:

- A rope long enough for all participants to hold comfortably with both hands.
- Enough blindfolds for everyone.

How to play:

- Before anything else, give a short talk on keeping things safe when everyone is blindfolded. Ask them to please be careful and safe, and not to yank or tug the rope, move too quickly, etc. Also make certain that they know that if anyone calls “Freeze!” everyone needs to immediately freeze and be silent. Again, this is a way to keep everyone safe.
- Ask everyone to put on their blindfolds.
- When everyone is blindfolded, place the rope on the floor somewhere in the gym. Be certain it is not tangled.
- Ask everyone to carefully find the rope, and take hold of it with both hands. They are permitted to let go of the rope if they need to during this phase of the activity.
- Once everyone has completed this, ask them to form a perfect square with the rope, holding on the entire time.
- After a bit, ask them to pause, and ask them if they think they’ve completed the task successfully. If they think they have, ask them to give you a thumbs up. If not, a thumbs down. And if they think maybe they’re close, a sideways thumb.
- Then ask them if they would like to continue to work toward their goal, or if they would like to stop and see what they’ve accomplished. Thumbs up for stop, thumbs down for continue. Before you do whatever the majority has voted for, ask if anyone has any strong feelings against doing what the majority has voted for and why.
- When they’re ready to remove the blindfolds, ask them to take a look at what they’ve achieved.

Tips for facilitators: Keep an eye out for any potentially unsafe behavior, such as running, pushing, tripping, yanking on the rope, etc. If you see a case where something might cause trouble, such as a foot tangled in the rope, call “Freeze” and adjust things safely.

ORID Debrief:

Objective: What were the challenges in this activity? What was the most difficult part of it? Were you successful despite these difficulties? Why or why not? What did you do? What did others do that was helpful? How did you communicate with each other? Was it effective? Did you think you had successfully completed the task when we paused? If not, did you agree to stop anyway? Why or why not?

Reflective: How did it feel to be blindfolded throughout this activity? How did you feel when you found the rope? How did you feel when you opened your eyes? Were there any frightening moments? Why or why not? How did you feel when you removed the blindfold and saw what you had accomplished?

Interpretive: Why do you think we did this activity? What did you learn from it? What did you learn about teamwork? What skills do you think this activity focused on? Was it effective?

Decisional: What will you remember from this activity? How can you take something you learned from this activity and use it in your life? How can you use it to work better with others? How can you use it to communicate better with others?

Variations:

- Create other shapes
- Have only half the group blindfolded
- Have only adults or only youth blindfolded