



## Blind Count

*Developed in the field by educators affiliated with NSRF.*

**Materials:** Blind fold for each participant

**Task:**

A group of 7-12 people who are blindfolded must get in sequential order without talking after each person is given a specific number that they are to represent.

**Rules:**

1. You may not talk.
2. You need to move slowly.
3. As facilitator, I am sharing responsibility for your safety and will redirect you to your group and to a safe area if you are moving away from the group.
4. As facilitator, I will check in with you after your group has formed a line. I will ask you “without talking, check with the person on either side of you to verify that you are in the right order”. I will then ask you to raise your hand if you know that your are in the right order. If you are all in agreement, then we will count off. If you are not sure, then we will continue.

**Facilitation:**

1. Pay close attention to how people are physically interacting with each other to in sure that appropriate touch and regard are being shown. If someone is not being appropriate, immediately pull him/her aside discretely and encourage a different approach.
2. Provide encouragement every few minutes by describing what you see.

“You now have two groups of three people who have found each other arid are in order and you have 5 people who are on their own moving around and one person who is standing still.” This gives them information to keep them going without directing their experience.

If you see significant frustration taking place, encourage them to use persistence and stay the course. “You all are so close. You have one line that’s in a circular formation and two people who are moving across the line right now.”

3. If time permits, let the group know that if they are not in the right order when they take off the blindfolds, that “we will try it again.” This helps the group to stay the course and focus their efforts.

4. Be sure to have them keep on their blindfolds as they start the count in the end. This adds to the anticipation and discovery.

**Processing of Experience:**

With this activity more than others, people burst into natural conversation about the experience right after they take off their blindfolds. They tend to seek out people who they weren't sure off when blindfolded. They recount events of the activity and laugh about what they have shared. Enjoy listening to their comments and after three or four minutes take one of their comments as a bridge for moving into the debriefing experience.

What did you do initially to solve this challenge? Did your approach change over time? If so how and why? How would you describe what happened over time within yourself and the group? What was it like to be on your own? What was it like to find the right person? Where there any leaders during this process? How did they lead? How did you communicate and what did you notice about the communication of others? Did anyone change his or her communication approach? Why? How did this change impact on the group? Did anyone want to give up? Tell us about it... What helped you to keep going?

What did it take to be successful as individuals and as a group in this activity? How connections might we make between Blind Count and our situations at home? What principles might we take back to our situation that could help us in our work?