



Mississippi Hot Chocolate Swamp

Developed in the field by educators affiliated with NSRF.

Task

Using 4-5 carpet squares as bases the participants move from an island (hula hoop) in the middle of a HOT CHOCOLATE SWAMP to the shore of the mainland (made of rope boundary line).

Rules

1. The participants must have one part of their body in contact with the island or one of the marshmallows at all times.
2. Participants may not touch the Hot Chocolate Swamp with any part of their body.
3. Marshmallows must be in contact with a participant at all times when they are in the Hot Chocolate Swamp or they will float away.
4. If a participant comes in contact with the Hot Chocolate Swamp they must return to the island and start their journey to the mainland over again.

Spotting and Safety

Only one person can be off the ground at any one time. They need to be spotted by facilitator and team members.

Variations

Individual group members may be handicapped with a variety of injuries from the plane crash. Examples: Lose the use of hand or arm or leg, blinded, can't speak etc.

Possible Fantasy Situations

The plane you were taking to a wonderful weekend in the Bahamas developed engine problems and had to make a crash landing. Fortunately the pilot was able to find a clearing on a small island in the middle of a Hot Chocolate Swamp in Mississippi. You were able to salvage some large marshmallows from the plane wreckage. As the plane began to go down the pilot spotted a city on the mainland at the edge of the swamp. The Hot Chocolate Swamp is much too hot to wade or swim through. The marshmallows may function as floatation devices as you make your way across the swamp to the city.

Processing of Experience

In what ways were you effective in working together as a team? How did you make decisions in your group during this activity? How effective were you in including all group members in decisions? What differences (if any) were there in the level of participation of group members? To what do you attribute the differences of participation experienced? How did you work to include all members of the group? Are there any notions related to participation or decision-making in this activity that could apply to your work with school wide next fall?