Uranium Mine

Developed in the field by educators affiliated with NSRF.

The Uranium Mine consists of conduit pieces/tools for each worker, a rope that represents the track of the mine, a container that holds the uranium and a marble that represents the uranium.

Task
The objective for the uranium mine is for the team to move the uranium down the track and place it into the safety vault.

Rules
1. Each person on the team must have the uranium pass through his or her conduit before a person can have the uranium pass through their conduit a second time.
2. A person can only move when they do not have the uranium in his conduit.
3. When a worker has the uranium in their conduit, they can only move the conduit in a teeter-totter motion from the center point of the conduit.
4. The worker may not move the conduit from side to side, or raise or lower the conduit when the uranium is in his possession.
5. If the uranium touches any worker, their clothing or touches the ground, the uranium must be returned to the initial site.

Facilitator
1. Blows whistle when there is an infraction on the work site.
2. Points out the progress of the group.
3. Records specific comments made during the experience to log group dynamics and the experience as it unfolds.
4. Questions during experience that help groups focus:

How have you improved so far? What have you learned individually that you could pass on to others? What is the problem that you are trying to solve? Are there any new problems that you are facing now?

Processing the Experience
How would you describe your communication as a team during this activity? How did it change over time? What problems did you have to solve in order to succeed? Was there a leader in this activity? What did they do to guide the group? How did people's attitudes influence the group's effectiveness? In what ways did you have to modify your plans once you began work? Why? What connections do you see between your experiences in this activity and the implementation of your future plans?