

COMMUNICATION WARM-UPS

Here are a couple of easy and fun activities to warm up your members to communicating, without them even realizing they are doing public speaking!

HORSE FOR SALE

Players sit or stand in a circle facing centre. Two people are in the centre. One is the "seller" and one is the "horse". The "seller" takes the "horse" to a player in the circle and offers to sell the "horse". The object is to make the "buyer" laugh while discussing the merits of the "horse for sale".

The "seller" uses whatever sales talk he/she can think of, and the "horse" assists by appropriate actions and sounds. If the "buyer" smiles or laughs, then the "buyer" becomes the "horse", the "horse" graduates to "seller" and the "seller" takes a place in the circle. If the group is large, have two or more selling teams to keep interest and action going.

KEEP TALKING

Arrange group in a circle. One member starts talking about a subject such as "cats". For example: "Cats are soft and furry. Cats have four legs. Cats have green eyes." Then the leader says "STOP" on a noun such as "eyes" and the next person begins talking about "eyes". This game can have lots of laughs. In earlier stages of confidence development, the group should sit to do this exercise, but stand as they gain confidence.

FREE ASSOCIATION

Form a circle. Start with a word and the next person responds with the first word to come to mind. Continue around the circle quickly and spontaneously. Example: cat, fur, coat, winter, snow, ski, fracture, doctor, etc.

SALESMEN

Load a suitcase with various articles - a can of beans, a pipe, an old hat, piece of chalk, a pop bottle - as many odd articles as you can think of. Each 4-H'er takes the suitcase, opens it up, pulls out one article and tries to sell it to the rest of the group or the person next to him.