



Thank you for volunteering to chaperone a Teambuilding Program at The EDGE.

The EDGE is George Mason University's Center for Outdoor Experiential Learning. Our challenge course programs are contracted for corporate, school, university and community clients. Visit our website for further information or call our Sales Account Manager at 703-993-4313.

During our Team Development Course at The EDGE, participants will learn valuable teamwork skills through a series of experiential activities and challenges.

Today, participants will achieve Success through

- Learning to **Communicate** and **Listen** effectively.
- Being willing to **Cooperate**.
- Being open to creative **Problem Solving**.

We give four (and only four) big hints to participants:

- **Plan**
- **Be Patient**
- **Practice**
- **Persevere**

As a chaperone, you have an important role today:

- **Cheer & Encourage** *without giving hints*.
- **Supervise** your team during lunch and at the end of the day when loading buses.
- **Support** participants' choices on their challenge level for each activity.

And, of course, Reminders . . .

- There must be at least one chaperone with a team at all times. Tell your facilitator if you must leave the group.
- Allow The EDGE staff to handle participant discipline.
- Keep side conversations out of earshot of participants.
- Turn phones to vibrate.
- Smoking is strongly discouraged. Smoke away from the group in the designated smoking area and carry the butt home.
- Challenge by Choice philosophy allows students to choose how they will participate. Let them make their own choices.

We have provided a checklist of things to look for as you **follow your team's progress during the day**. You may want to take this information with you during the program and then give it to the group organizer at the end of the day. He/she will appreciate your attention. Any comments that you may have may be noted on the back.

What Is Really Going On?

As you cheer on your team, look for the following things that may occur. Check them off as you see them happening.

Team Name: _____

- Members of the team get to know one another better. This is known as the **Forming Stage** of group development.¹
- The team sets a goal (vague, or clear & specific)
- A time when the group struggles and can't seem to get it together. All groups pass through this **Storming Stage**; this is a natural part of the group development process.¹
- Notice a time when the facilitator seems to ignore a discipline issue. Often facilitators will try to get the team to take responsibility for their own discipline.
- A time when the team may not complete a challenge, but are successful in achieving a goal.
- Members of the team take on very specific roles such as team leader, idea giver, organizer, supporter, peace keeper. This is called the **Norming Stage**, and often follows **Storming**.¹
- The team uses a skill that they learned in a previous activity or challenge.
- Someone in the group who didn't have much to say begins to speak-up.
- The team discusses how what they learned could apply to their everyday life.
- A time when you could barely keep yourself from giving the group a hint. (And maybe you did; it happens to the best of us.)
- A team member claims, "This is impossible!"
- The team completes a task that seemed impossible.
- A time when the entire team seems to be having fun.
- A moment when the team just "clicks" and begins to perform well together. This is known as the **Performing Stage**.¹
- A moment when an individual member of the team has made a great personal accomplishment.
- A time when the team begins to bond together and support one another physically and emotionally.

¹ Tuckman, B. & Jensen, M. (1977) Stages of Small Group Development. Group and Organizational Studies, 2, 419-427