

USING YOUR NOODLE

Remember every day we all have many problems that need to be solved; try to think about several solutions to each one! Every person has a great solution, so don't be afraid to ask other people for their ideas. Just like your game group, your friends can help you brainstorm about other ways to solve problems. Parents, 4-H leaders and other adults are great people that will not only help you brainstorm solutions, but they can also help you to put your plan in action. One of the best ways you can continue to expand your leadership skills, is to realize that everyone can help you to become a better leader.

4 STEPS TO CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING

1. Understanding the Problem

- Can you state the problem in your own words?
- What are you trying to find or do?
- What are don't you know?
- What information do you get from the problem?
- What information, if any, is missing or not needed?

2. Devising a Plan

- Look for a pattern.
- Brainstorm as a group.
- Look at similar problems and their solutions will work with your problem.
- Try solving simpler sub-problems first
- Make a table or draw a picture
- Use guess and check.

3. Carrying Out the Plan

- Implement the strategy or strategies in step 2.
- Check each step of the plan as you proceed.
- Keep an accurate record of your work.

4. Looking Back

- Check the results in the original problem.
- Does your answer make sense? Is it reasonable?
- Determine whether there is another method of finding the solution.

CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING TIPS

- If the problem you are trying to solve has already been solved by others, by all means learn that solution first, but improve it and make it your own.
- Begin by solving the simplest version of the problem.
- Build your solution in steps.
- Avoid focusing on a single solution. BRAINSTORM!!!
- Don't assume things that about the problem
- BE PATIENT AND PERSEVERE!!!

THE GAMES WE PLAYED TODAY!

50 Ways to Use Your Noodle

By Chris Cavert & Sam Sikes

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- Stick Games: p.180-182 (p.193)
- Parts Passing: p. 28-29
- Pass the Pasta: p. 7-8
- DNA: p. 124-126
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50 More Ways to Use Your Noodle

By Chris Cavert & Sam Sikes

- Team O-pener: p.47-48
- Noodle Cube: p.54-55
- Squares: p.68-70
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