

# Teamwork & Teamplay

Building Unity, Community, Connection and Teamwork  
Through Active Learning

## *Marble Tubes*

### **Equipment**

You'll find directions for two versions of marble tubes in Chapter 5 of the book *Teamwork & Teamplay*. 'O' shaped pvc tubes, and 'U' shaped pvc tubes. You'll need at least one Marble Tube section for each participant, along with a few marbles, golf balls, and other small rolling objects.

### **The Challenge**

To relocate several marbles from Position A to Position B using only the PVC tubes. Participants that are holding a marble in their segment of PVC tubing are not allowed to move their feet.

### **Typical Presentation, Storyline or Metaphor**

During the annual spring walk of the local bird watching society, your group notices a bird's egg that has rolled downhill away from a nest on a low branch. Knowing that many animals are wary of human scent, you attempt to relocate this marble-sized bird egg back to the nest, without touching it.

### **Variations**

For a truly unique experience, try passing a collection of marbles up a flight of stairs, or up the incline of a hill. Allowing participants to hold near the ends of the tubes make this task a little easier. For a more difficult challenge, only allow participants to touch their own marble tube. For an even harder task, participants can touch any tubes they like, but the tubes cannot touch each other.

Attach a variety of colored tape to the ends of the marble tubes, so that only similar colors can be partners. You can also add some of the various connections found in hardware stores, such as elbows, tees, Y sections, etc.

Drilling a few holes in some marble tubes will additionally challenge the participants having those tubes. We call these the "swiss cheese tubes."

Try passing other objects, such as foam balls, which make little or no noise. Passing water is also fun. See *Waterfall II*.

One of the hardest variations is to only allow participants to touch their tube with one hand.

### **Important Points**

Choose a reasonable distance to transport the marbles or balls. For a group of 12 participants, 50 to 70 feet (15 to 21 meters) is adequate.

### **Discussion and Debriefing Topics**

Do you think your group worked together well, or were there fine points that could be improved upon? How did your group decide on the plan? Did the execution of your plan change during the activity? Did the order of participants change during the activity? How many of your marbles (goals) did you achieve?

### **Sequence**

Marble Tubes require just a bit of problem solving, but quite a bit of activity, especially if the marble is going uphill. This activity has a lower energy level, and may be useful in between a high energy activity and a processing or reflective moment.

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