

Outdoor Ethics

Why Would They Do That?

Objective:

Participants will

- Identify what motivates people to behave in an inappropriate manner during recreation
- Determine some alternatives we might offer for better behavior.

Duration:

The time allowed for this activity will depend on the size of your group. Allow a minimum of 30 minutes.

Materials:

3x5 index cards
Pencils

The Activity:

1. Form the group into a circle.
2. Provide pencil and paper to each participant.
3. Ask each participant to write on their card the recreation behavior that they dislike the most.
4. Ask the participants to pass their cards two people to the right (or left).
5. Beginning with one participant, start a “round robin.” Ask that first participant to read the card and offer a reason for that behavior – what benefit might the person be getting from that behavior? Ask the rest of the group if they see other possible benefits of that behavior? Then ask the group what alternative behaviors they might recommend that would provide the same or similar benefits. You may want to write down as reminders for yourself the benefits and alternatives noted during the “round robin.”
6. Continue with the “round robin” until all participants have read their card. If there are duplicate cards, ask the participants to acknowledge that and ask if there are any benefits or alternatives that haven’t yet been raised.

Final Processing:

Much of the processing occurs during the activity. Summarize at the end by listing the benefits and associated alternatives the group has offered. Suggest that they keep the two-step process – what benefits and what alternatives – in mind as they work to influence people’s behavior.