



Circle of String

Let's try something fun!

What you'll need: Space for a circle of people (the more people you have the larger the space you'll need). A group of at least 6 people is ideal (the more people, the more fun you can have). If you have more than 20 people you may want to create 2 group circles.

Materials Needed: Ball of durable string (for each group circle), a scissor, clock/timer and a camera to capture your group's activity.



Friends in Circle – Source: iStockphoto

Directions: *Please note, you are never allowed to let go of your piece of string!*

Step 1: Get a group of people together. Assemble everyone in a circle.

Step 2: One person should take the ball of string; take the loose piece of string from the ball and pull out enough of the string so it can reach across the circle. Hold on to the loose end of string tightly. Then while holding the loose piece of string in one hand, throw the ball of string to someone across from you in the circle. Make sure that the string between person #1 and #2 is not too tight and not too loose.

The 2nd person should catch the ball of string and hold on to their piece of string.

Person #2 should loosen some more string from the ball so that they can throw it to the 3rd person.

Step 3: The 2nd person throws it to the 3rd person across from them in the circle, while holding on to their piece of string. Keep following this process, so that the 3rd person throws the ball of string to the 4th person, then the 5th to the 6th person and so on. Make sure that the string in between people in the circle is not too loose or too tight.

Step 4: You will know that you are done with this portion of the activity, when everyone has a piece of string. The last person to receive the ball of string will throw the ball back to the 1st person. When the 1st person gets the ball of string back, ask your teacher, youth leader or mentor to cut the last piece of string with the scissor and help tie the 2 ends of the string together. Now the 1st person is holding the piece of string that is knotted together. Make sure to remove the ball of yarn out of the way.

Take a good look at the structure that your group has created together with the string in the circle. What does it look like? You may want to get your group teacher, leader or adult mentor to take a photo of the group.

Step 5: Now start the timer, or record the time that you are starting. Here's the fun part! Your group needs to get itself un-entangled from the web of string. Your goal is to make sure the string is no longer entangled and the group is making a neat circle of string with each person holding their piece.

Work together and maneuver as a group until you figure out how to get everyone un-entangled. If you have more than one circle, you can race and see which group circle finishes first.

Remember, everyone has to hold on to their piece of string, you cannot let go of your piece of string – that would be cheating! If you cheat, you have to start from the beginning.

When you are finished, record your time. Answer these few questions about the experience:

**Capture your observations on a piece of paper, flip chart or white/chalk board*

REFLECTIONS

1. How long did it take you to get un-entangled?
2. What did you have to do to solve this human web of string?
3. How did each of you feel as you were getting un-entangled?
4. Sit as a group and reflect on what you did first? Did that work? How did you try something different?
5. What worked well?
6. What did not work for the group?
7. How can you relate this activity to situations in life?