LEADERSHIP INSPIRATIONS

Road Map Game

Collaborate to map out the ideal road trip

TIME	MATERIALS	
20-30 minutes	Paper, markers	Forming, Norming, Performing

Learning & Development Outcomes

This activity will give participants practice using systems thinking to create comprehensive project plans. It will allow them to think through all of the steps required to achieve a desired outcome.

Outcomes are focused on developing ***21st Century Skills*** and the ***National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Career Competencies***, including, but not limited to:

- Prioritizing, planning, and managing work to achieve the intended result.
- Analyzing how parts of a whole interact with each other to produce overall outcomes in complex systems.
- Prioritizing and completing tasks to accomplish organizational goals.
- Planning, initiating, managing, completing, and evaluating projects.

Preparation & Logistics

Set Up

- There should be space for several small groups to sit together and work collaboratively.

Safety

- Participants may have different levels of experience traveling or familiarity with locations around the United States. Assure participants that they can be successful with this activity even if they have not traveled at all or if they do not know about many different travel destinations.

Additional Considerations

- Set aside additional time for a debrief.
- *Click here to watch it live!*

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Instructions

Summary
Participants will collaborate to map out the ideal road trip and get a better understanding of how groups think and make decisions about what is important to them.

This activity is appropriate for all ages.

Step 1: Set up the task

- Put participants into groups of four or five.
- Give each group a piece of paper and markers.
- Tell each group that their task is to plan a trip around the continental United States that they will take together. The road trip must meet the following criteria:
  - It must have eight stops (specific cities, states, or landmarks).
  - It must start on one coast and end on the other.
  - Identify the vehicle to travel in.
  - Name your trip.
  - Everyone in the group must agree on all decisions made.

Step 2: Create the road trip

- Give each group about 15 minutes to come up with the details for their road trip and have them depict the road trip on their paper.
- Allow the group the creative freedom to depict their road trip however they would like.

Step 3: Share the road trip

- After each group has created their road trip, give each group a chance to present what they came up with.

How to end the activity

- The activity is over once everyone has shared their road trip plan with the group.

What can we use to brainstorm ideas?

"Whatever resources you have that are appropriate for all participants to use, let them! Computers, books, magazines, etc. are great to help come up with ideas for where to go and what to do!"

Take note of which participants are stepping up, being over-controlling, being passive, etc. and be prepared to discuss group dynamics and roles during the debrief.

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Debrief Questions

These questions are a starting point to guide your debrief. Pick the ones that best match your group's experience and add or change questions as needed!

What
- How did your group approach making decisions in this activity?
- How did you personally contribute to your group's process?

So What
- Why is it important to be able to make decisions collaboratively?
- What can make a collaborative process inclusive? What can make it not as inclusive?

Now What
- What types of collaborative decisions does this group make?
- How can you ensure that everybody is included in the decision making process?

Adjustments for...

Large Group (25+)
- Instead of having each group share out to everyone, pair up groups and have them present to each other.

Small Group (1-9)
- Have the whole group work together on creating one road trip.

Risk Level
- To add a level of difficulty, provide groups with a budget to spend and encourages participants to think creatively about how they will make their trip feasible.

Group has prior experience
- Add in additional elements for each group to decide on, such as creating a playlist for the road trip or assigning each member of their group a role (driver, navigator, DJ, snack-master, etc.).

Online *[click here to see the online version!]*
- Create a document for each group to work on.
- Put each group in a breakout room and have them depict their road trip on their document.
- Then, bring everyone back to the main room and let each group share their screen to present their road trip.

Each adjustment is its own unique idea for how to facilitate this activity for different groups and situations! Choose any or all that work!

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