

# River Cross

**Objective:** Teamwork, communication, and problem solving

**Group size:** 4 or more

**Materials:** Sheets of paper (different numbers depending on size of group), blindfold, tape

**Estimated Amount of Time:** 30 Minutes (depending on size of course)

**Instructions:** Prior to beginning this activity, look at the environment you have to work with, this activity works best with a long hallway, large room, or outside where the students cannot trip over something. The longer the room, the more difficult the activity can be. Tape off two “shorelines” for the students to see where the activity begins and ends. The facilitator will tell the students that their objective is to get safely from one side of the river to the other by only using “magic rocks” (pieces of paper). If these rocks are on the river without someone touching them, they will float away and the group will lose the rock. At no point in time can the students touch the water (area in between the shorelines) and if they do, they will be eaten by alligators and have to start over. Pass enough rocks for half of the participants to get one and tell them they can get more if one of the participants volunteers to receive a penalty. This punishment can be getting blindfolded, tied to another player’s leg, or loss of vocals for everyone (whichever the facilitator deems more appropriate). Allow the students time to figure out a game plan and let them begin. If a member has done this activity before or are getting through the river faster than anticipated, make it more difficult by spreading random objects around the river for the students to receive. If there is additional time, challenge the students to make it back in a shorter amount of time! End the activity with processing questions.

**Note:** The two main times to look for a floating rock to disappear is when the students start off and throw the rock into the river, or when they are about to cross the finish line and forget to hold the rock for the next person.

## **Processing Questions:**

1. What strategy was the most effective, why?
2. What role did you play on the team? What roles did you appreciate that other members showed?
3. If a student received a penalty, how did that change things? What additional efforts needed to be taken to assist this individual, how does this relate to working as a group/staff?
4. Were there any times you felt frustrated? How could these times have been fixed?
5. What characteristics do you look for from staff/team members? Discuss these expectations.