

INITIATIVE TASKS (Half Day or Full Day) PROGRAM OUTLINE



Initiative Tasks are clearly defined tasks, which challenge the mental and physical abilities of participants. They expose participants to new ways to discover, communicate, think, solve problems, and interact physically and socially.

Initiative tasks demand intense interaction and cooperation; in this way, they promote feelings of community and sharing, as well as acceptance of individuals within the group.

Initiative Tasks have 6 main components:

- individual involvement
- uncertain success
- personal adventure
- acceptance of risk
- problem solving
- individual and group goal setting

Initiative tasks may be used to meet the following objectives:

1. To provide students with challenging problems or tasks, which require them to assess a problem, consider alternatives for its solution and to carry out a plan of action to solve the problem or complete the task.
2. To place students in a problem-solving situation where there is some stress due to perceived risk or the pressure to perform quickly. This should provide an opportunity for group interaction, which can later be evaluated by the participants.
3. To have students evaluate their performance as a group in terms of their effectiveness in problem solving and in functioning as an effective group.
4. To build mutual support within the group.
5. To increase the participants' sense of personal worth and self-confidence.
6. To promote personal initiative through group interaction and support.
7. To bring about an appreciation for one's physical self and natural environment.
8. To encourage individual thinking when confronted with a stimulating physical and mental challenge.
9. To develop personal awareness and insight.

Initiative tasks will not achieve these objectives in and of themselves. The teacher must structure and re-enforce to support specific objectives. With appropriate preparation and closure or debriefing these objectives and more may be realized.

Important Information:

- Please come dressed for the weather and bring inside and outside shoes as there are both inside and outside activities. Under extreme weather conditions some of the tasks can be done inside.
- Students should be divided into groups of 6-8 students
- We recommend bringing 2-3 adult volunteers in addition to the classroom teachers
- Tasks will be chosen to suit the age level of the students.
- This program can either run as a full day program from 9:30-2:30, as a half day program in either the morning or the afternoon, or be combined with orienteering, animal survival or cooperative games to make a full day program

If you require further information or wish to plan your program ahead of time please phone 780-468-1439.