



Robot Driver

Purpose Teambuilding/Icebreaker

Groups Size 2-40 (requires partners, can be done with any group size with enough space)

Time 10-25 minutes

Materials Blindfolds – 1 for each pair

Procedure

Everyone pairs up with a partner and introduces themselves if necessary. Pick one partner to be the robot; the other participant will be the robot driver. The robot must travel from the designated starting point to the finish line along a route the driver determines (most drivers will choose unique routes). The robot is then blindfolded, and the driver stands behind the robot and directs them toward the finish line.

- Touch the top of the back for the robot to walk straight forward
- Touch the right shoulder for the robot to turn to the right
- Touch the left shoulder for the robot to turn to the left
- Touch the bottom of the back for the robot to stop

*Half way through the route, robot and driver will switch roles.

TIPS

Ahead of time, select a space (either indoors or outdoors) with enough room for all participants to move around freely. Identify a space that is free from any dangerous obstacles or hazards. Determine the starting point and ending point on the route participants will be traveling.

After giving instructions, ask the group what they must all be aware of to maintain physical and emotional safety throughout the activity. Remind them not to get too close to other pairs and clearly state boundaries and limitations.

*It's critical for the robot driver to be aware of their surrounding and maintain the safety of the robot. Encourage the robot to trust their driver, this is an exercise in getting out of your comfort zone. If the robot feels uncomfortable being blindfolded, they can stop at any time to remove the blindfold and look at their surroundings.

Debrief Questions

- How did it feel to be the robot?
- How did it feel to be the driver?
- As a driver, how did you select a path for your robot to travel?
- When is a time in your life that you've experienced something similar?