

"Lost" and "Found"

When leading group activities, a simple phrase can be introduced to participants early on in the program. It's 'Lost' and 'Found'. Now most people associate this phrase with lost socks at summer camp, but it is an easy way for participants to find a partner during an activity.

The phrase can be used when participants in the group need to find a partner. Here is how it can be introduced: "If you are looking for a partner at any time during today's program, put your arm up in the air like this (demonstrate by putting your arm up in the air) and announce, 'Lost!'. This is the universal sign for 'I'm lost and need a partner!' If there are other participants that are looking for a partner they will do the same thing. This will make it easy to identify who also needs a partner. Then, when you get near your new partner, shake their hand and proclaim 'Found!' (demonstrate this by shaking someone else's hand)."

This is an easy way for participants to manage themselves. If you introduce this concept at the beginning of your program, participants will naturally do this the rest of the time you are together. This technique works particularly well in icebreaker activities like Spot it.