

Inspire! Ice Breakers & Openers



Activity: **Dead Ants**

Overview

Dead Ants is a contagiously fun and cooperative tag game. One or two people volunteer to be anteaters, the rest start out as ants. Anteaters attempt to stun all of the ants on the ant hill, while the ants struggle to avoid the anteaters and rescue their friends. Dead Ants will have your group playing hard and working together.

Props

- None.

Instructions

- Start by creating a boundary for play (i.e., the ant hill). Use landmarks such as trees or cones to create the ant-hill and have everyone step inside.
- Ask for one or two volunteers to become the anteaters, the rest to become ants.
- The anteaters mission is to stun as many ants as possible by tagging them.
- The ant's must avoid the anteater and work together to save their ant friends who have been stunned.
- When an ant is tagged by the anteater, the individual sits on the ground and calls for help.
- Stunned ants cannot move from the spot, but may wave their arms and legs to alert other ants to their situation.
- To make a rescue, **four** ants must carefully lift and carry the stunned ant to a location just outside of the play area.
- When all four ants have locked into positions for a rescue, they cannot be targeted by the anteater. This allows a safer rescue without the need to rush and potentially drop someone.
- Once an ant has been rescued, he or she returns with the rescuers to the game.
- Play as many rounds as you wish, and switch anteaters frequently.

Safety

Stress the importance of safe lifting and carrying, for this activity is where the most likely injuries will occur. Remind group members that there is no need to rush once four people have locked into position for a rescue. Stop the rescuers if you believe their method for lifting or carrying someone is unsafe for any party, and use these occasions to stop the entire game and discuss what it means to support one another.

Variations

To avoid the lifting and carrying of another person, you can change the rules, asking four rescuers to surround a stunned ant, lock their arms in a circle, and escort the individual off the ant hill.