



ALLEGANY BOYS CAMP

inspiring change through relationship

September 2017

Problem Solving EVALUATION

Imagine yourself, hundreds of years ago, as part of a council meeting in a Native American community. Discussion and heated debate continue for hours. Conflicting issues are raised; problems and their possible solutions are presented with emotion and logic. All participants speak and listen, for the issues affect the whole community. Our future hangs in the balance!

Then, like a campfire, the discussion dies down. Everyone is thinking about the issues, the problems, and the now-obvious solution. A quiet stirring is heard as the aging leader of the group stands to speak. The sachem is deeply respected by all sides for he has proven his love and devotion to the community over a lifetime. As the sage speaks, everyone listens. His clear evaluation “puts a word on” what has happened in the hours of discussion. Heads nod in agreement as each individual feels respected, resolves to prevent the problem and work hard at the agreed-upon solution.

This picture of evaluation at the end of a problem-solving session creates an opportunity for real learning and change in a group or community. However, in 2017, our fast-paced culture militates against good evaluation.

God’s spokes-men in the Old Testament pleaded with their hearers to evaluate their problems. In Haggai 1:5 the prophet says, “Give a careful thought to your ways.” Jeremiah 6:16 quotes the prophet imploring, “Stand at



the crossroads and look, ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.”

A concise evaluation as the final step of a problem-solving session is key to helping a group of boys at camp, or any group for that matter, improve their problem-solving skills in the future. Examples would be: “You said that in a very kind way”, or “I’d like to see you participate more, you have a lot to offer.” Or maybe, “What you said was right, but hard to hear from you because you don’t do it consistently.” The leaders also need to be open to the group’s evaluation of him, like “This problem was too rushed, when can we take more time to discuss it, Chief?”

Good evaluation also helps cut through complexity by briefly repeating the main points of the problem-solving session. “After all we’ve discussed here, remember what we said about how to be respectful.” Or, “This problem is easier to handle if we address it when it’s small.” Objective repetition is key to growth and preventing future problems.

Evaluation of a problem should roughly match the problem. If the problem is quick and easy, the evaluation can be short and almost imperceptible. If the problem is long and difficult, the last step of evaluating should be more involved.

Hopefully you have enjoyed and benefitted from Allegany Boys Camp’s past five newsletters and this discussion on problem solving. I trust you have gained ideas that will be helpful in your relationships. Or in the words of a camper, “Problems ain’t good for nothing anyway, so we might as well solve ‘em!”

God bless you for your interest and support for Allegany Boys Camp.

Camping with Jesus,
Brian Martin, Director

ADVENTURE LEARNING - FIRE STARTING WITH A BOW & DRILL

INTRODUCTION

Hello, today we will be explaining how a bow and drill fire works. As hard as it is to believe, a lot of people don't know what a bow and drill is. Maybe you're one of them.

First, we'll explain what it's like to start a fire with fifty people watching. It deserves some embellishment. So, let's say you have no clue what these boys on a hay wagon are doing so you walk over with sober interest. 'Cause hey, who doesn't see those red shirts and a whole cloud of smoke? Red attracts the eye and smoke brings the crowd. Smooth move Mountaineers.

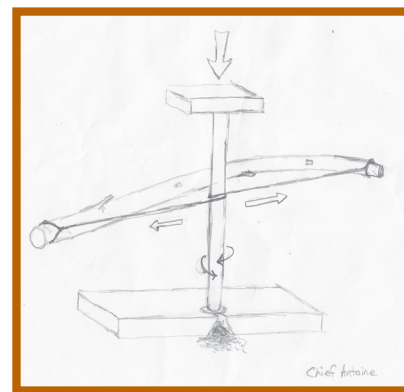
As you approach, you see two red shirt clad boys fighting back and forth with a bow and a stick. But that's when you notice that the smoke is coming from a board on the hay wagon. You ask a viewer of those stripling pyromaniacs what's going on. They reply with a simple, "They're starting a fire with a bow and drill." Unsatisfied, you go to another person and ask the same question. "I've been here for ten minutes and all they are doing is making a bug repellent for today." Man, what fun! Not really. After about another 10 minutes you notice most of the original crowd disperse and a new crowd has come.

But soon you start to see that a fire is getting started. And you think, "That was so easy, I could do it." Overzealous, that's all I say.

You'll eventually see that it's not easy. In fact, you'll later hear that those poor boys spent hours working on that "thing." Most people, "like you" think it's easy to rub two sticks together until you get enough heat to start a fire. Okay! Are you working today? No? Okay, you go start and I'll be back tomorrow to see how you're getting on in the humidity and wind.

Starting a fire with a bow and drill is hard. It takes a lot of patience and TIME. Trust me, my group tried and it took us a couple days (with breaks and other stuff) but we eventually got it. So enough hish-hash. Next, we'll go onto what you'll need. Trust me, this will make it a lot easier. But it will take time.

Ian - Mountaineers



HOW A BOW & DRILL WORKS

The first step is to make a bow. A curved stick works best. Then you make a notch and about an inch from both ends. Next you take a light string and tie it into the notches. It should be around four inches from the string to the bow.

Now the drill part: You want a very straight stick around an inch or less.

The drill should be softwood like pine, cedar, or poplar.

The fire board comes next. It should be a dry plank of soft wood as well. Next you carve or drill a hole at the edge of the fire board. The hole should be a little bigger than the drill. You should cut a small upside down "v" in the front of the hole at the edge of the fireboard.

Now if the string on the bow is loose enough, you should be able to wrap it around the drill once. Next you find some dry tinder and place it under the "v" on the fire board.

Then you pull the bow back and forth. The drill should start spinning and make black shavings on the fire board. This makes a small red coal, which should light the dry tinder.

Eric - Mountaineers

Camp Kindling

... small pieces of camp news and needs



- 🏠 Thanks to those of you who came to our open house. We appreciate your support!
- 🏠 Welcome to Douglas Miller. He will be serving as our maintenance man.
- 🏠 Shawn Weaver joined our team this month. He will be serving as chief in the Pioneer group. Welcome!
- 🏠 We said farewell to Brent Mast. He served as maintenance for the past year.

CHUCKWAGON EXPANSION

Allegany Boys Camp has the opportunity to receive a matching fund from two generous donors. Each dollar that Allegany Boys Camp receives towards the matching fund will be matched by these donors. They will contribute up to \$60,000, making a total of \$120,000.

Please consider donating between now and the end of 2017 towards this project. Our plan is to use these funds to expand our chuckwagon facility. Please mark your check "Chuckwagon Expansion Project".

Thank you and God bless you for considering this project.