make way for the millennials

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The 2009 Leadership Challenge Forum
Activities designed and inspired by *The Student Leadership Challenge* by Kouzes and Posner
Elvis Evolution

The object of the activity is to become Elvis by moving up the “evolution” chain by playing “Rock, Paper, Scissors” with other participants. Participants must make the movement of the animal and then challenge animals of their own species to a game of “Rock, Paper, Scissors.” If participants win the game, they move up to the next animal.

If the participant loses, they move down a level in the chain. Once a participant becomes Elvis, they are free to play against anyone – at any level. However, Elvis never has to move down in the chain, even if he/she loses.

The order and movement of the evolution chain is as follows:
- Egg (hands folded together)
- Chicken (hands tucked under arm, flapping)
- Duck (hand in front of mouth like a duck bill)
- Bird (arms outstretched, flapping)
- Elvis (arms stretched above head in a victory position, two fingers giving a peace sign on each hand)

(You may choose to create your own random group of animals to create the chain. However, each animal must have a movement that coordinates with it.)

The rules of the activity are as follows:
- Everyone begins at the bottom of the evolution chain (egg).
- You can only challenge your own species. Example: eggs can only play Rock Paper Scissors” against other eggs, chickens can only challenge other chickens, etc.
- If you win the game, you move up a level in the chain and move on to find another person of the same species to play against. Example: Two eggs play and the egg that wins moves to become a chicken. The defeated player remains an egg. Two ducks play against each other – the winning duck becomes a bird, the defeated duck becomes a chicken.
• Once Elvis status is reached, Elvis can play anyone but can never lose. Example: Elvis challenges an egg and the egg loses. The egg must remain an egg. Elvis is still Elvis. Elvis then challenges a bird. The wins and the bird becomes Elvis, and the original Elvis remains as an Elvis.

The Leader Lesson:
At the end of the activity, ask which participants were able to achieve Elvis status. Ask participants to think about their strategy for after they become Elvis. Also, ask the participants who were not Elvis to think about their encounters with Elvis. Discuss that the process of becoming Elvis can be similar to two ways they can approach leadership.

1. After becoming Elvis, did they intentionally seek out the eggs and chickens and work with them until they were able to achieve the highest level.
Or...
2. Did they intentionally seek out those closes to achievement (birds and ducks) and play against them until they were eggs and chickens again.
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Noteworthy