



NORTHGATE

ACTIVITIES FOR MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT

Mission Improbable!

Two places in the Lake District need eggs! Your team has a map – but only the other team knows where to go!

A communication & planning activity that reveals how members of a team work with each other AND with other teams.

Key Skills

- Teamwork
- Communication skills
- Group interaction
- Trust & Confidence
- Planning

Numbers	Two teams of four to six people
Timing	1.5 hours
Price	£295 (plus VAT for UK). Delivery £9.75 for UK, £25 or less for elsewhere)

What it's all about?

Mission Improbable tests participants' planning and communication skills. It is a challenging exercise and is highly motivating and fun to do.

Participants are divided into two teams. The rooms, or areas, are linked with a two-way intercom system (supplied with the pack) with which all inter-team communications are made.

In one room, Team A learn that they are on a management training course and are *planning* for a major event in the Lake District. To do this, they will have a team of four people available to them and a special egg carrier with which to transport eggs.

Unfortunately their destination is not shown on their OS map. Although they have a sketch map of the whole area they need to contact the other group (Team B) to find the exact details.

Conversely, Team B know where they are based and can find their position on their OS map - but their destination is on Team A's map. Team B will have a team of three people available to them, so can carry less eggs on their carrier.

Both teams' objective is to get a minimum of 200 eggs to their destination by Wednesday at 1.00pm. It is presently Sunday evening.

What Happens?

To succeed, groups need to get their objectives clear right from the start. They then need to organise themselves to do the work. On top of all this they need to share information and communicate fully with the other team.

What tends to happen is that the groups want to compete – even though it is explained in their Brief that the final result is based on the *combined performance* of both teams. In fact, although Team A can just about do their task before the deadline, Team B certainly cannot. So, in order to succeed, both teams *must* cooperate.

A critical point is that teams can help each other enormously by taking eggs to the other team's destination.

Other key points are the importance of establishing the objective early on *and ensuring that everyone understands it.*

A major problem facing teams in *Mission Improbable* is that as they journey along a road, eggs are broken. Even more eggs are broken when they travel across country. So the number of eggs at the start of a journey is not the number that actually arrives at the end. So the choice of route is very important.

What to Do

1. Explain the purpose of the exercise
Participants will be working in two groups, in different rooms. Issue each group with their materials: brief, OS map, sketch map and map measurer.
2. Set up the intercoms and allow teams five minutes to practise using them.
3. Allow 60-90 minutes for them to try and accomplish their objectives.
4. At the end ask each group to prepare a brief presentation of their work.
5. Bring the two groups together and listen to each presentation.
6. Discuss the issues that are raised – the Trainer's Notes provide good guidelines.
7. Try to build a bridge between what participants experienced in the activity and what happens at work. What action points can be generated for improving communication and planning skills and procedures?

Mission Improbable! Recent Purchasers

Zephyrus Education
The Star Learning Network
Coors Brewers Ltd
First Great Western
ACT SE Ltd
John Lewis Partnership
DWP Training Services
Education Leeds
Four Square, Mars
Moat House Hotels
ABV Training
Royal & Sun Alliance

Mission Improbable! Trainer's Comment

*We recently used **Mission Improbable** with a senior sales team from a large IT company – it was a **resounding success!** We used it with a team that already confessed to having communication problems. Perhaps predictably enough, the activity rapidly descended into chaos with one team actually accusing the other of having written instructions to deliberately withhold information!*

Lisa Thompson
The UK Business Practice

TO ORDER

Please contact **NORTHGATE**
TEL 01 225 484 990 FAX 01 225 484 399
sales@northgatetraining.co.uk