

**Lesson:  
Spider Web**

**Materials:**

- **Thick string (at least a yard long per participant)**
- **Scissors**

**Length of lesson:  
15 Minutes**

**Discussion Summary:**

This activity is a simple and creative way to help participants recognize that everyone contributes something valuable as individuals to a community.

**Discussion Questions:**

- **What characteristics do all people have in common no matter the appearance, location or culture?**
- **What can we do to improve our connections amongst one another?**

**1.** Begin by explaining this activity will help us see that we are all connected. Individuals make up a community and everyone plays a unique role in that community. Remind participants that even though we are all different, when we appreciate those differences, recognize our similarities, and work together, we can make something beautiful. Give examples of ways individuals contribute to communities: sharing resources, respecting others, helping others, sharing their expertise, challenging inequality and injustice, and working together.

**2.** Have participants sit in a circle on the floor or in chairs.

**3.** Explain the activity. In this activity participants will create a spider-web out of string. When the ball of string is passed to

them, they will pinch a piece of the string and hold onto it. As the facilitator, start the activity by pinching the end of the string, stating your name, stating how you contribute to the Girls Only! community, and how you contribute to your family, neighborhood, or world. For example: "My name is Miss Gonzalez. I contribute to the Girls Only! community by preparing activities for you all because you are so special to me. I contribute to my family by helping to cook dinner on special occasions." Then continue to hold onto the end of the string and pass the ball of string to a participant across from you.

**4.** When someone has the ball of string in their hands they will state 1) their name, 2) how they contribute to/play a part in the Girls Only! community, 3) how they contribute to/play a part in their family, school, neighborhood, or world. For example: "My name is Gina. I contribute to the Girls Only! community by sharing my experiences with the group. I contribute to my neighborhood community by picking up trash on the sidewalk" or "My name is Rose. I contribute to the Girls Only! community by helping the teacher pass out papers. I contribute to my school community by volunteering as a reading tutor to younger students."

- 5.** After they have shared, the participant will keep pinching their section of string and pass the roll of string to someone across from them. As the spider-web gets formed, participants will have to throw the ball of string, walk it over or under other parts of the web. It is ok if the web gets tangled, allow participants to figure out the best way to communicate to create the web. Assist as necessary.
- 6.** After all participants have shared, pass the ball of string back to the facilitator.
- 7.** Each participant should be holding a piece of string and the effect should look like a spider-web. Encourage participants to look at the beautiful piece of art they have created by working together. They each played a part as individuals to create a communal piece of art.
- 8.** Ask participants to share what they learned from the spider-web activity.
- 9.** To finish the activity, have each participant place their piece of the spider-web gently down so that the shape remains even as it is set on the floor.