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Team Works! The Birkett Mills/Keuka College Challenge Experience Promotes Teamwork and Trust

Ropes Course Earns Rave Reviews from Corporations, Schools and Clubs

KEUKA PARK, N.Y.—TeamWorks! The Birkett Mills/Keuka College Challenge Experience does in one day what corporate CEOs spend weeks and weeks doing: get senior-level managers to agree on something.



And it isn't just the corporate world that has enthusiastically endorsed Keuka's fun-filled approach to team building. Schools, clubs, and other organizations have praised the way the low and high ropes course fosters trust and unity among its people.

"TeamWorks! The Birkett Mills/Keuka College Challenge Experience promotes teamwork and leadership development to students and community members in both the private and public sector," said Linda Fox, director of the program.

Constructed in 1989 with a grant funded by The Birkett Mills (Penn Yan), the ropes courses features low and high elements, initiatives, and trust activities. Each of the 48 elements offers a distinct challenge that can only be met when participants pool their physical and mental talents, according to Fox.

"However, the actual mastering of an element or completion of an activity is not as important as the attempt itself," said Fox. "What is important is that participants come away with the ability to transfer what they learned on the ropes course to real-life situations at work and home. They gain a better understanding of themselves and their teammates."

According to Fox, organizations "rave about their people who have completed the program, pointing to enhanced coping mechanisms, trust in themselves and their colleagues, improved communication skills, and increased motivation."

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The TeamWorks! staff tailors the program to meet the needs and objectives of each group.

“They give participants a set of parameters and safety guidelines for each element,” said Fox. “And you don’t have to be a world-class athlete to participate. The only requirement is a willingness to try.”

Programs typically range from 3-7 hours, although programs spanning more than one day may be scheduled.

For more information on the Birkett Mills/Keuka College Challenge Experience, contact Fox at (315) 279-5240 or lfox@mail.keuka.edu (.)