



President May I

Goal: To help club members practice parliamentary procedures by making motions in a fun manner.

Background

Club meetings provide the opportunity for members to:

- Learn about the methods of making decisions and the effect of decisions upon the group,
- Learn effective methods of conducting business using parliamentary procedure, and
- Develop leadership skills involved in serving as an officer, committee chair, or member.

Individual club members need to learn basic parliamentary procedure skills so that they can participate fully in the business meeting. Each member should learn how to:

- answer roll call,
- address the chair,
- make and second motions,
- discuss motions, and
- vote on items of business.

Activity: President May I

We are going to practice making a motion by playing President May I. Some of you may have played Mother May I, this is similar.

Before we get started we'll review the **steps in making a motion.**

Obtaining the Floor: Before a member can make a motion, he or she must "obtain the floor." This is done by saying, "Mr. or Miss President." The president recognizes the individual by saying his/her name. The person then "has the floor."

Making a Motion: After a member "has the floor" he/she can make a motion by saying, "I move - - then stating the business he/she wants action on.

Seconding a Motion: A motion must be seconded before discussion or vote. Any member may second the motion by saying, "I second the motion." If the motion is not seconded, it is declared lost by the president without a vote. For the activity today, a member may second a motion, but must wait to second another motion until everyone else has a chance to do so.

Discussing a Motion: After a motion has been made and seconded, it is stated by the president. Before putting it to a vote, the president asks whether there is any discussion of the motion. Any member can discuss the motion.

Voting on a Motion: When a motion is put to a vote the president first states the motion by saying, "It has been moved and seconded that (complete the motion). All in favor of the motion say aye (yes); all opposed say nay (no)." Or the president can ask for a show of hands.

Announcing the Results: The president announces the results. “The motion carried.” OR “The motion failed.”

Instructions for President May I

Instruct members to line up, should to shoulder, in an area where there is space for them to take steps forward. Define a beginning point and an end point for their movements. If the group is large, break them into smaller groups, so that everyone has a turn.

For President May I, there are only three motions that a member can make:

- I move we all take one big step forward.
- I move we all take one step backward.
- I move we all jump forward.

Have members follow the steps in making a motion, so that everyone gets a turn at making a motion.

Talk It Over

Reflect:

- How did it feel to practice the steps to make a motion?
- Was it easy or challenging? Why?

Apply:

- What does every motion require before being discussed? (A second)
- What words does each motion begin with? (I move...)
- Can a member speak without being recognized by the president? (No)
- After a motion is seconded, what does the president call for next? (Discussion)
- What is parliamentary procedure? (A method for conducting a business meeting in an efficient, fair and friendly manner.)

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