**Non-Verbal Communication**

**Stacking the Deck**

**Directions:** *For this activity, you will need a pack of regular playing cards and lots of space to move around. To practice their non-verbal communication skills, players should* ***not*** *to talk to one another. For larger groups (e.g., 10+ students), one deck of cards is sufficient. For smaller groups, it would be advantageous to split the card deck in half (only 2 possible suits to sort, etc.)*

1. Begin by shuffling the deck of cards, and give each player 1 card. Instruct players to keep their card a secret from other players – no one should see the suit or color of another player’s card.

1. Then, players should sort themselves into 4 groups, according to the card suits (hearts, clubs, diamonds, spades) using nonverbal communication. Players should come up with their own ideas, movements, or expressions to signify each card suit. Make sure players do not cheat and show others their card!
2. Once players have sorted themselves into 4 groups, instruct the individuals to then line themselves up in chronological order, according to the number on their card. Again, this is to be done using non-verbal communication.
3. The group that lines up in the proper order first, without speaking and by using successful non-verbal communication wins!
4. After players have completed the non-verbal portion of the activity, lead a “debriefing” session in which students share their experiences and impressions about the activity. Here are sample questions to guide your discussion:
   * *Was it easy or difficult to communicate only non-verbally?*
   * *What non-verbal communication strategies did you see/use?*
   * *What is an example of a situation where non-verbal communication might be important to use?*