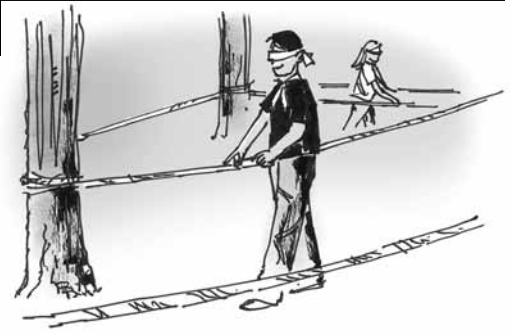


# Blindfold Maze

by Julian Celms



**T**his great activity can be adapted for all age groups of any ability and used at all times of the year. What you need is a bit of imagination, and lots of rope!

### The Task

Create a fun and wacky rope maze amongst some trees. The maze will have various lines and wrong ends. Participants need to go through this with their eyes closed or with a bandana over their eyes.

### Instructions:

While keeping their eyes closed, participants are to maintain contact with the rope from start to finish. Let participants see the beginning of the maze before they close their eyes. The game reaches an end when one or all of the participants reach the finish.

### Debriefing:

Ask participants how it felt to be blindfolded while making their way

through the maze. What surprised them the most? When they finished and looked back over the maze, did it feel different when blindfolded? Larger? Smaller? Is there anything to learn from this experience if they were to help someone with a visual impairment?

What did they find the most challenging about the maze? Did they ever get disoriented?

### Variation:

Depending on how complex you wish to make this, you could also add bells or noisemakers on smaller offshoots to the maze. Challenge participants to go through the maze quickly to see if they can find them all.

### Equipment:

- Rope. Lots of rope. Depending on the complexity of the maze, between 100 to 350 metres of rope.
- Small bells or noisemakers.

### Set up:

- Run the rope from tree to tree about three feet or 1 metre off the ground so that someone in a wheelchair can grasp it. The rope

may be simply wrapped around each tree to keep your maze suspended.

- Place a bell at the end of the maze to ring when completed or install several bells and noisemakers on "dead ends".
- Set up this maze in a remote area where people or wildlife will not run into it, or take it down after each use.
- Install on relatively level ground so that participants are unlikely to fall. Remove large rocks, deadfall and other debris from the area where the rope is installed.
- Avoid areas with flying insects, ants, ticks, or poison ivy and other dangerous plants.

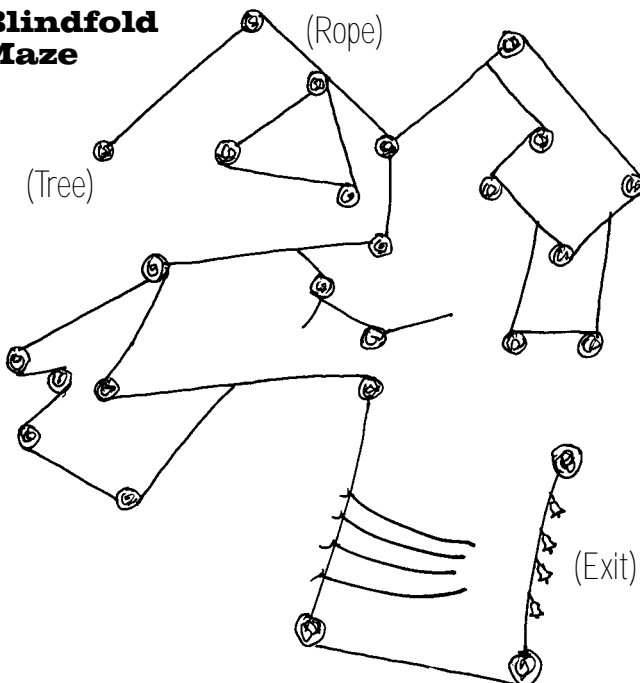
### Déjà vu?

After reading this article, you may feel that you've seen it before. A similar game was described in the March 2007 *Leader Magazine* as part of the Trees of Canada article. Due to its popularity, it was felt it deserved a page of its own. Enjoy! X

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Illustrations: Richard J. Patsche

### Blindfold Maze



### Bird's Eye View

