FFA Leadership Conference

(Continued from Page B25)

The ASE was an obstacle course, challenging teams of FFA participants to work together to eliminate mental obstacles in order to cooperatively overcome a physical obstacle.

The members of the teams were randomly selected, and state officers also were divided among the teams and held no special rank.

Harnish said that the first obstacle in the course was a sort of teeter-totter made from a plank bound to a cut log. The object of the obstacle was to get all teammembers onto the plank and bring the plank into a state of balance for a period of 30 seconds.

"You had to consider everybody's ability," Harnish said, adding that the test also required team membes to honestly consider the effect that each individual

would have on the balance.

"Everyone had an important part," Harnish said. "If you took one person away, there wouldn't be any balance."

The next obstacle was a type of maze constructed not only with directional twists, but with various-height hurdles.

The test was to have one person go through the course blindfolded while a partner provided instructions on how to safely and successfully get through.

Harnish said that part of the ASE reinforced the responsibilities of those being led.

"That developed trust. The person blindfolded had to trust the other person. That's a big thing on a team. You have to trust other people," Harnish said.

She said that those who would lead others need to gain the respect

and trust of those they wish to help by leading, to communicate effectively, and to establish a clear understanding of the real common goal that creates the bond between leader and follower.

Another type of cooperative task was for a team to successfully 'walk" as a group, using common "feet."

The instructors told the students that they were traveling through a forest and came upon a watery obstacle that wouldn't support the weight of each individual separately.

Given two long planks, each outfitted with six loops of rope, the groups were to all get on the two planks and use the rope loops as handholds.

The groups then were to "walk" foward, as one unit.

Harnish said she was pleased with how well the group she was in worked together.

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On the right, Marci Harnish, state FFA vice president, presents a certificate of appreciation to Judy Shatzer, of Four-Seasons Produce, for sponsorship of the Eastern Pennsylvania FFA Leadership Conference.

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From the left, front, a blindfolded Joel Fox, of Garden Spot FFA, gets instructions from Matt Strickler, of the Sol-

anco FFA Chapter, on how to navigate a maze, while Heidi

Dalhammer, the current state FFA secretary, gets instruction from Michelle Cornman, of Big Spring FFA.

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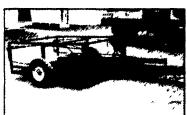


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