

ICEBREAKERS

Title: *Treasure Hunt*

Objective: Allows group members to become acquainted and encourages people to understand that we have differences and similarities.

Materials: treasure hunt handout for each person, pencil or pen

Procedure:

- o Explain that everyone brings some knowledge to the group. When teams work together, they understand that people are alike in some ways and different in other ways. It is a successful team that uses the knowledge from all the team members.
- o Hand out a copy of the Treasure Hunt to each person.
- o Ask that everyone find one trait that is similar to you and one trait that is different than you for each person in the cabin. If they have trouble coming up with how they could possibly find differences and similarities, give examples such as has brothers and sisters, likes/dislikes sports, favorite color, favorite food etc.
- o Set a time limit (e.g. 5 minutes) to achieve reaching all the people in the group to encourage everyone to keep focused.
- o When the time limit is up, you can gather for a brief discussion.

Possible questions:

Did some of you find others who were very similar/different from yourself?

Did you find some uncommon similarities? Were there any surprises?

Was it hard to ask enough questions to answer the questions?

Title: *Candy Talk*

Objective: Use M&Ms to encourage people to talk and introduce themselves to each other.

Materials: Enough M&Ms for each participant to have a small number – (6 or so)

Procedure:

- o Give each participant a few M&Ms
- o Explain that each color represents a cue to say something about themselves.
- o Have the explanations handy so everyone can see them.
- o Use the list of ideas provided or make up your own.

Ideas:

Red: what was your best vacation?

Yellow: what is your favorite hobby?

Blue: tell about an embarrassing moment or some time when you were really surprised

Green: have you ever done something you or others didn't think you could do?

Brown: tell your nickname or if you don't have one, a name you like.

Other ideas:

- o tell one thing you like about your school/organization and one thing you wish was different
- o tell a special talent that you have
- o if you were an animal which one would it be and why?

Have everyone:

- ✓ begin mingling
- ✓ arrange themselves alphabetically by their first names.
- ✓ arrange themselves by birth dates, from earliest to most recent or drop the year and from January to December.
- ✓ form a line starting with the least tall and finishing with the most tall, with their eyes closed.

Nonsense Name Game

Introduce yourself to the group with a sentence based upon the first letter of your name.

"I'm darling Dorothy. I like dancing daily."

(Pattern: I'm ADJECTIVE NAME: I like ACTION-ing NOUN)

I'm generous George. I like giving gifts.

The Last Word

The participants should stand in a circle. One participant moves and stands randomly in front of another. He/she makes a statement (e.g. "it is such a nice night."). The person spoken to will move to another person and make a statement starting with the last word in the statement he/she received (e.g. "Night is the time my dog likes to eat"). Each participant takes turns to ensure that everybody gets a chance to participate.

Good or New

Ask each person to share something good or new they have experienced in the last 24 hours.

As If

Get people in partners and have them great one another "AS IF" they are: best friends from high school, meeting their potential employer for the first time, roommate from freshman year of college, he/she does not speak English, etc.

Shoe Factory

Have the group stand in a large circle shoulder to shoulder. Then have everyone remove their shoes and put them in the center. After the group has formed a pile with their shoes, the leader has everyone choose two different shoes other than their own. They should put them on their feet (halfway if they are too small). The group then needs to successfully match the shoes and put them in proper pairs by standing next to the individual wearing the other shoe. This will probably result in a tangled mess - and lots of giggles!