LEADERSHIP INSPIRATIONS

Connection

Find things in common with different group members

TIME
10 minutes

MATERIALS
None

TEAM STAGE
Forming, Norming

SUMMARY

This is a fun activity that gets the group up and moving while also discovering a variety of ways that they are all connected to each other through their personal interests and experiences.

SET UP

- Find an open space for your group to move around comfortably.
- To start, have all participants form a circle.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Inform the group that the goal of this activity is to make connections with others in the group past those that are visible or obvious.
- One person starts by saying their name and a fact about themselves such as, *"My name is Brenda and I play a sport".* Do not allow obvious statements like, "I have eyes" or "I am a member of this group".
- If another member of the group can relate to their fact, they shout, "Connection!" and link arms with the first person. If multiple members shout "Connection!", whoever is first will link arms.
- Then, the linked second person introduces themself and shares their fun fact.
- If nobody relates to the fact, the person continues listing new facts until someone says, "Connection!".
- Once a person is linked with another person, they must stay connected to each other. This way everyone in the group finds ways that they are linked or connected to someone else.
- This activity continues until everyone is linked, including the last person and the very first person.

VARIATIONS

- If your group isn't comfortable with each other yet, have them sit next to each other instead of linking arms.
- For increased difficulty and/or more collaboration, instead of linking, start in pairs. Each pair will find something they have as a connection. Next, have two pairs join together and these groups of four must then find a new connection. Then, have two groups of four join together to form eight to find another new connection and so on until the entire group has to find one common connection.
- For a different take on this activity, try asking for disconnections instead. Specify that the group should again not use statements that are visible or obvious. The goal is to find things that are different for each member. They will be surprised at how difficult this can be sometimes!

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VARIATIONS *(continued)*

Online: To facilitate this activity virtually, have someone start by saying their name and fun fact and have all other participants connect by using the "raise hand" feature. Read the name of the participant who raised their hand the fastest to let them know that they got the connection. They can then share their own fun fact and the remaining participants can "connect" by using the "raise hand" button. Once a participant has connected, they should no longer use the "raise hand" button. Continue until everyone has connected. ***[click here for video]***

DEBRIEF QUESTIONS

- What are the benefits of our group finding out things that connect us?
- If this activity was easy, what are some ways that we can continue to grow in our knowledge of one another?
- If this activity was a challenge, what is one commitment you will make to getting to know your group members better?

***Facilitator Note*:** As a general note, icebreakers are used for the purpose of breaking the ice and getting a group warmed up to participate in lessons and activities that will include debrief questions. Typically an icebreaker does not need to be debriefed, however, when done intentionally, inserting a mini debrief or thought provoking question after an icebreaker can help to set up the rest of the lesson and tie the entire experience together in a more seamless fashion. These are some sample questions that can be used or modified to connect to the lesson that will follow.

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