LEADERSHIP INSPIRATIONS

Coat of Arms

Create your own personal "Coat of Arms" to share your favorite things

TIME	MATERIALS	TEAM STAGE
20-30 minutes	Paper, markers	Forming, Norming, Adjourning

Learning & Development Outcomes

This activity provides a creative way for participants to communicate information and ideas in a visual way. It provides an interactive process for sharing about oneself while also exploring methods of visual communication.

Outcomes are focused on developing ***21st Century Skills*** and the ***National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Career Competencies***, including, but not limited to:

- Using communication for a range of purposes.
- Using a wide range of idea creation techniques.
- Communicating in a clear and organized manner so that others can effectively understand.
- Keeping an open mind to diverse ideas and new ways of thinking.

Preparation & Logistics

Set Up

- Make sure that everyone has space to work independently and a solid surface in front of them.
- Create a template of a coat of arms divided into four quadrants and make a copy for each participant.

Safety

- Tell participants that this activity is about sharing about themselves, and that there are no wrong answers. Remind them to be respectful about what others choose to share.

Additional Considerations

- Set aside additional time for a debrief.
- *Click here to watch it live!*

K-2 3-4 5-6 7-8 9-12 ASB

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Instructions

Summary
Participants will create a coat of arms to share their favorite things with the group.

For older participants, change the prompts to be more appropriate for your group.

Step 1: Distribute materials
- Give each participant a piece of paper.
- Place markers in a central location where all group members can come up and get the colors they need.

Step 2: Give participants time to create
- Tell everyone that their coat of arms will be a visual representation of them. Each quadrant should include the answer to one of four questions:
  - What are your favorite books/movies/TV shows/stories?
  - What are your favorite hobbies/activities?
  - What are your favorite things to eat?
  - What are your favorite things to do at school?

Can the questions be something different?

"Of course! Feel free to substitute different questions or prompts for each of the four quadrants - just make sure that the risk level is developmentally appropriate for the group."

Step 3: Give everyone a chance to share
- After spending 10-15 minutes creating, have participants put away their markers so they are not tempted to continue drawing while others are sharing.
- Give each participant a chance to share their coat of arms. Have them pick two quadrants to highlight, rather than trying to share everything.

How to end the activity
- The activity is over once everyone has shared their coat of arms.

Adjust the instructions as necessary to match any group norms or best practices about sharing markers, returning markers after using them, etc.

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Debrief Questions

These questions are a starting point to guide your debrief. Pick the ones that best match your group's experience and add or change questions as needed!

What

- Which quadrant was the easiest for you to create? Which was the hardest?
- What similarities or differences did you notice between your coat of arms and others'?

So What

- What do you enjoy about learning about other members of the group?
- How can sharing about ourselves with others create friendships in our group?

Now What

- How will you continue to share about yourself with others?
- What can you do with what you've learned about others in this group?

Adjustments for...

Large Group (25+)

- Limit sharing to just one quadrant so that the sharing portion can move quickly.

Small Group (1-9)

- Allow group members to share their whole coat of arms rather than just picking two quadrants to share.

Risk Level

- To increase the risk level, choose more personal questions for some of the quadrants. For example: "what are you good at doing".

Group has prior experience

- Pick all new questions for the four quadrants.

Online

- Make sure participants have paper and something to draw with.
- Share a picture of the coat of arms template and have each participant copy it on their own paper before drawing in each quadrant.
- Then, when it's time to share, have each participant hold their drawing up to the camera.

Each adjustment is its own unique idea for how to facilitate this activity for different groups and situations! Choose any or all that work!

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