

# I Like My Neighbor Who

Discover what you have in common with others in your group

**TIME**  
10-20 minutes

**MATERIALS**  
Place markers (shoes, polypots,  
tape, chalk, etc.)

**TEAM STAGE**  
Forming

## Learning & Development Outcomes

Participants will share information about themselves and learn information about other team members through a social and hands-on activity that will require teamwork and self-awareness.

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

- Demonstrating additional attributes associated with producing high quality products including the ability to respect and appreciate team diversity.
- Respecting cultural differences and working effectively with people from a range of social and cultural backgrounds.
- Displaying curiosity; seeking out opportunities to learn.
- Building strong, positive working relationships with supervisor and team members/ coworkers.



## Preparation & Logistics

### Set Up

- Participants will be standing in a large circle with one person in the middle of the circle. There should be a place marker for everyone in the group (except the person who will be in the middle). Use participants' shoes, a polypot, tape, or even a chalk mark.

### Safety

- Participants will be running through the center of the circle. Remind them to be careful to avoid stepping on toes or running into other participants and to refrain from pushing or shoving as they move past other participants.
- If playing on a slick surface, make certain that the place markers are securely set on the ground. Also, encourage participants to not step directly on the markers to avoid slipping.

### Additional Considerations

- Set aside additional time for a debrief.

## Instructions

### Summary

In this activity, participants can see what fun things they have in common with other group members.

This activity is appropriate for all ages.

### Step 1: Start with an initial statement

- Have all participants stand up and form a large circle, with one person in the center and everyone else standing on a place marker.
- Have the person in the middle call out "I like my neighbor who..." and then an activity or trait that is true for themselves and might also be true for others in the circle (for example, "I like my neighbor who... likes camping" OR "...eats cereal for breakfast" OR "...loves brownies").

What if the same people are always caught in the middle?



"You can add a rule that participants can only be in the middle 3 times. If they get caught in the middle again, they get to choose someone who hasn't been in the middle yet to switch with."



### Step 2: Find a new spot

- Anyone who falls into the category of the statement that was said must enter the circle and try to find a new empty spot on the outside.
- The person in the center also tries to get a spot.
- Participants may not take a space directly next to them.
- The last person left in the middle without a spot will make the next statement.
- Continue the pattern, with each new person in the middle sharing a statement and everyone the statement applies to moving to find a new spot.

### How to end the activity

- The activity is over once everybody has had a chance to be in the middle.
- The activity can also end after a specified amount of time or number of rounds.



To increase participation, make a rule that everyone must be in the middle at least one time.

## Debrief Questions

### What

- What did you enjoy about this activity?
- What did you learn about other people in this activity?

### So What

- Why is it important to find connections with others in the group?
- How can sharing about yourself help you bond with the group?

### Now What

- How else can you find out what you have in common with others?
- What can you do with the information you learned about others in the group?



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!

## Adjustments for...

### Large Group (25+)

- Add a rule that in addition to not being able to move to the place directly next to them, participants also cannot move to the place two over from them.

### Small Group (1-9)

- Space the place markers farther apart so that the circle is large enough for participants to comfortably move across.

### Group has prior experience

- Before beginning the activity, have participants write down answers to a number of prompts such as "what is your favorite food?" or "what are three hobbies you enjoy?". Have them keep their papers with them, and when they get caught in the middle have them read something off their paper to use as their statement.

### Online

- Have everyone turn their camera off. Call out a statement and have everyone who relates to that statement turn on their camera, look around for a few seconds to see who else has their camera on, and then turn their camera off again. In this variation there is no getting caught in the middle, so type an order of names in the chat and have each participant go in order calling out a statement.



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

