

“Group Introductions” Get-Acquainted Team Building Activity

Source: Cox, Kathryn J. 2004. (revised 2005). *“Group Introductions” Get-Acquainted Team Building Activity*. Columbus, OH: OSU Extension.

Background:

This activity resulted when a group misunderstood the directions for the “20 Questions” Activity, and started asking their own questions rather than waiting for the group facilitator’s questions. It worked so well that we have continued to use this new version in other settings, especially when only limited time is available for introductions.

Objective:

As a result of participating in this activity, group members hear the names of all group members, learn a bit of information about each one, and begin getting better acquainted with several they previously did not know well.

Introduction & Directions:

- Have participants stand or be seated in a circle, so that everyone is facing everyone else. For very large groups, divide participants into sub-groups with 20 to 30 people in each.
- Ask participants to write a question (on an index card or sheet of scrap paper) that they would ask to get acquainted with another person. Provide examples, such as “What do you like to do for recreation?” and “If you could spend two weeks anywhere you wanted, where would you go?”, with instructions that they cannot use the sample questions.
- Then ask for a volunteer to go first. The first person:
 - tells the whole group his/her name and where he/she is from (or some other “standard” identifier you want everyone to know about each other), and
 - asks the question he/she wrote, for the next person to answer
- The next person in line:
 - tells the whole group his/her name and where he/she is from (or the other “standard” identifier requested),
 - shares his/her response to the previous person’s question, and
 - asks the question he/she wrote, for the next person in line to answer.
- The process continues until all participants have been introduced and answered & asked a question. The first person may answer the question posed by the final respondent, in order to complete the circle of questioning.
- At the end of the question & answer round-robin, “process” and evaluate the activity with at least three or four of the processing questions listed below.

Processing & Evaluation Items

1. Which questions prompted answers that really helped you to get to know the people who responded?
2. Which people do you think/feel are most like you? Which people seem very different from you? Why?
3. Why is it important for group members to know each other’s names and something about each other before proceeding on to other tasks?
4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of involving similar and different people in groups like this one?
5. What are the most important things you like to know about other people before you start working with them?
6. Is there a question you are likely to ask to get to know people you work with in other groups in the future?
7. To wrap up this activity, get in a group with two or three other people you do not know well, and get better acquainted. Be prepared to introduce the other people in your small group when we begin the next activity.