

ICEBREAKERS AND START-UP ACTIVITIES

The following is a list of activities requiring few if any supplies.

1. The house is on fire -- family and children are safe-- what 3 things would you save?
2. Introduce the person next to you, including two things of interest about them.
3. Write your 3 most recent accomplishments.
4. Pull out two items from your purse/bag that best identify you and why.
5. Write down three things about yourself--- 2 true and 1 false--- and let the group guess which is false.
6. Begin a sentence with "I will never" _____.
7. Share a fantasy.
8. Tell everyone what you did Friday night, Saturday morning, that morning before coming....
9. Write something about yourself that no one else probably knows, fold and put in a hat, draw and guess who it is.
10. List 5 things you enjoy doing most and when you did them last. Share with group.
11. Choose a slogan, movie title, catchy phrase, or saying with the same number of words as number of people in the group. (You bring these) Tape one sheet to each member of a group and then ask them to find the other people in the group.
12. Display props and ask participants to choose one as they come in. Then have each participant introduce themselves, where from, why your here, and why you chose that prop.
13. If advance notice is possible, ask participants to make a collage showing things important to them.
14. As participants enter have them tear off as much toilet paper as they think they will need. when they introduce themselves they must tell something about themselves for each square of toilet paper.
15. Ask participants to create a bumper sticker that best reflects them.
16. Pass around a piece of paper and ask each participant to do something different with the paper, only limit is they can't tear the paper.
17. As the participants come in tape a picture on their back (animals, camping equipment, house hold objects). They can ask each of the other participants one yes/no question to help them guess what their picture is.
18. Welcome the participants at the door but give them someone else's nametag and tell them to find that person, introduce themselves and find something out about that person. (Pair the nametags before hand so less time is spent looking for each other)
19. What was your best job and why?
20. What would you do if you won a million dollars?
21. What kind of animal would you be and why?
22. Provide jigsaw puzzles for teams to complete. If possible prearrange for some of the pieces to be duplicated and some to be missing, forcing the teams to trade with each other and work as a larger group.

ICE BREAKERS AND START-UP ACTIVITIES

This list is compiled from a wide variety of sources, including personal experiences as well as contributions from others.

At our recent leader training, Locomotion, we played a great icebreaker game. "Do you like your neighbor?" Everyone sits in chairs in a circle, 1 person without a chair is in the center of the circle. She goes to a person sitting down and shakes her hand introducing herself. "Hi, my name is Sheryl." The person she is shaking hands with says, "Hi my name is Lynn." Sheryl then asks Lynn if she likes her neighbors. Lynn looks to the left then right. Her response is either "no" (If she says no, the two people on either side of her jump up and try to change places. At the same time Sheryl tries to grab one of their chairs. If she succeeds the person without a chair now is "IT". Another response Lynn may say is "Yes I like my neighbors, but I don't care for people with glasses, or Girl Scout Leaders, or Blonde hair, etc. Any one who fills the bill has to get up and switch chairs with other people with the same characteristics. The person with out a chair is now "IT". We played this with our Junior troop and they loved it too and did not want to stop. Good way to learn people's names and a lot of fun.

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A game or a get acquainted game that I use as a trainer is:
the trainer holds a ball of yarn (she hangs onto the end of the yarn), she tells something about herself (i.e. name, what city she lives in, age group she leads, how long she's been in GS. any children of her own, etc.); after telling this information she tosses the ball of yarn (still hanging onto the end) to a new person and in turn, that person tells of herself; then afterwards this person tosses the ball of yarn (again hanging on to her end) to another person. This continues until everyone has told of herself and has kept hold of the yarn. You'll end up with a WEB of yarn but it is a great teaching tool, in that it shows all of the leaders/girls that they are NOT alone-- we are ALL connected, willing to help, and work together.

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One of my favorite startup activities is to give each person a small paper T-shirt and some markers. The participants get a partner and introduce themselves to their partner who will then create a T-shirt that they will use to introduce that person. The person the T-shirt is about got the T-shirt with the name and phone number of her partner - 1 new resource to have.

Arnetta Jones Ajones5741@aol.com Girl Scouts of Central Maryland Master Trainer

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"Find someone who" bingo We have a bingo board that they have to go around the room and find people who - like camping, has a minivan, knows the promise, etc. They get so involved in finding people to meet the requirements, they end up filling in all the spaces!

Graffiti boards I put large poster boards or pieces of paper on the wall with markers. On the poster board I write questions like: "I really need to know:" or "I need an help doing:" They fill out these sheets as they arrive and I have a quick needs assessment of what questions they are looking for me to answer.

"That's me!" I have about 25 questions from "I like ice cream" to "I am a Girl Scout Leader" to show the diversity and pluralism of the class. When I read a question, if it applies to them they have to jump up and say, "That's me!"

"Sue Heinlein" <scotty_gs@hotmail.com>

BINGO Write the name of the person answering the question in the square.

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People Bingo Inserts

This is a list of cut and paste inserts that can be used with the blank bingo page.

Person Scavenger Hunt

Has shaken hands
with a famous person.
Name of famous person

Can whistle "Dixie".

Has visited the
Statue of Liberty.

Can sing
"Yankee Doodle".

Can swim.

Has ridden a horse.

Voted in the last
presidential election.

Can play a musical
instrument.

Has marched in
a parade.

Can wiggle his
or her ears.

Has ridden a
motorcycle.

Owens cowboy
boots.

Doesn't like football.

Has a parent who
was a scout.

People Search

Was a Brownie
Girl Scout.
*How long were you
in Girl Scouts?*

Collects something
for a hobby.
What do you collect?

Likes ice cream.
*What is your favorite
flavor?*

Has been to the beach.
Which beach?

Likes to go
to the movies.
What is your favorite?

Plays a sport.
Which sport?

Still goes to school.
Favorite subject?

Has a brother or sister.
What are their names?

Likes to eat out.
Favorite restaurant?

Went to camp
this summer.
Where?

Has been to a
foreign country.
Which one?

Likes swimming?
Where do you swim?

Likes pizza.
Favorite topping?

Likes dancing.
What kind do you like?

Has been to a
different state.
Which one?

Likes music.
Favorite song?

Likes crafting.
Last craft project?

Likes to read.
*Favorite book? or
Last book read?*

bingo

OUTDOOR BINGO

Has never gone camping before.

Knows how to build a fire.

Has never eaten a S'more.

Has made a sit upon.

Knows what a banana boat is.

Has camped at one of the Council Camps.

Has planned a Scout's Own with a troop.

Knows what the sprinkle method is.

Has looked at the Outdoor Education in Girl Scouting book.

Knows what a round-up tent is.

Has participated in a flag burning ceremony.

Has cooked a meal in a dutch oven.

Has used a reflector oven.

Knows what a nose bag lunch is.

Has slept in an adirondak shelter.

Has made a camp belt.

Can identify 3 trees.

Can identify 5 flowers.

Can tie three different knots.

Can list 3 camp Kapers.

Can pitch a tent.

Likes to camp out.

Has a dunk bag.

GIRL SCOUTS TOGETHER

Has more than three Girl Scout T-shirts.

Your craft supplies would fill a truck.

Can make hot dogs on a fire 4 different ways.

Has at least 5 camp recipes you haven't used yet.

Sings camp songs when alone in the car.

Has Council phone number on speed dial.

Has more Girl Scout bookmarks for internet than family bookmarks.

Receives mail addressed to camp name. (i.e. "Dirty Socks")

Majority of e-mail is Girl Scout related.

Purse contains at least one Girl Scout item. (phone list, name tag, hair tie for camp,...)

You have asked yourself "How can I do that cheaper"

Can make 4 hat swaps out of a film canister.

Has memorized Council address and/or phone.

Can list all types of Girl Scout cookies offered.