Icebreaker Activities

1. Flags or "Maker" Name Tags

Equipment – large sheets of poster paper, markers, pom-poms, feathers, cardboard, straw, paper plates, pipe cleaners, glue guns, coffee lids etc.

Steps – A get-to-know-you activity where each person is asked to draw/make a flag that contains symbols or pictures describing who they are, what's important to them or what they enjoy. The flag can be separated into 4-6 sections and each section can contain a picture ie. a favorite food, a hobby, a skill, where they were born, most memorable summer/Christmas/Spring Break experience, their family and strongest leadership quality. After the flags are completed, students can share through a gallery walk to find out a bit more of their peers. Can also be used as an icebreaker for the beginning of a conference (personalized name tags)





My Fabulous Flag

2. He Stick Challenge (8-14 people)

Equipment – 2 long poles; 8 ft in length (bamboo sticks, metal rod etc.)

Steps - Line up 2 rows of students facing each other. Groups of 10-12. Participants need to hold out their arms and put bar on their index fingers. Stick needs to stay horizontal and fingers in contact with tube. The challenge is to lower the tube to the ground! The catch: every finger must ALWAYS be in contact and there is no pinching or grabbing of pole. Pole must always rest on top of fingers. Pole appears to levitate as everyone is lifting their fingers. Coordination and communication is key!



3. The Yarn Toss (12-20 people)

Equipment - A large spool of string or wool.

Steps - Ask students to stand in a circle. Hold onto 1 end of string and throw the ball for one of the members to catch. Choose a question from 1-15 to answer (handout). Holding the string the ball student answers and then throws it to another member of the group. He/she in turn answers a question from the list. Keep doing until a web is formed! In the end, MAKE A COMMENT HOW WE ALL MADE A CONTRIBUTION TO MAKING THIS WEB UNIQUE AND IF ONE PERSON WAS GONE, IT WOULD LOOK DIFFERENT, SO IMPORTANT THAT ALL OUR EFFORTS AND OUR INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN THIS STUDENT GROUP IS RESPECTED AND MAKES IT UNIQUE AND SPECIAL.

4. Chicken Baseball (20+ people)

Equipment - A rubber chicken

Steps- Form 2 equal teams of students. One team throws the rubber chicken as far as it will go. The other team runs to it, forms a straight line and passes the chicken "over and under" the students' legs until it goes from the front to the back of the line. The team that threw the chicken needs to form a tight circular group and one member runs around the group until the rubber chicken has circulated from the front to the back end of the opposing team. The team that makes the most "runs" wins \odot



5. The Number Clap Game

Equipment – students in partners

Steps - In teams of 2, have students count off, back and forth between them, the numbers 1, 2 and 3. Once they get used to it, replace the 1 with a clap. Do this for 2 more minutes. Advise the students that when they make a mistake, throw your hands up in the air and laugh! As we want everyone to feel that mistakes are OK in this journey in Leadership! Now, replace the 2 with a snapping both fingers. Go back and forth counting off the numbers again. 1= clap and 2 = snap of fingers, still say 3 aloud. Do this for 2 more minutes and then replace the 3 with feet stomping. Go back and forth counting off the numbers again. 1 = clap, 2 = snap of fingers and 3 = feet stomping! Do this for 2 more minutes and FINALLY move into a larger group (3-4 pairs) and try again with all in a circle. Sure to bring on some good laughs!