

Awesome Icebreakers

S-U

Activities to Bring Out the Best in Your Group

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LEP interactive

Spider Web

Purpose: Uses problem-solving skills; designed so that all members feel comfortable taking part

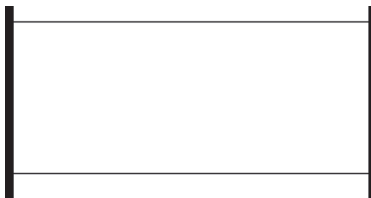
Group Size: 15 to 25

Time: 20 – 30 minutes

Supplies: Yarn or string to make the spider web; two trees about 10 feet apart (if done outside) or two poles (if done inside)

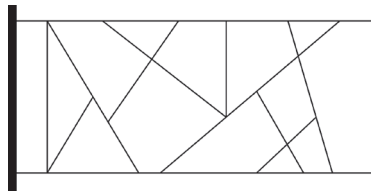
Directions:

1. The set up for this activity needs to be done ahead of time. Assemble the spider web by first tying the string from one tree to another at an eight-foot height, and then tying another string at ground level. This is the beginning of the web.



2. Next, tie off sections to make holes big enough for people to step through or be lifted through. Count the number of people who have to get through the web and keep that in mind when deciding how

many holes to make. Remember to make a couple of holes a bit more difficult than others or the group won't be challenged enough. Don't provide too many easy options. The spider web should look something like the sketch below when you're finished.



3. The rule is that each hole can only be used three times (four if you have a larger group). The students have to plan and keep track of how many times a hole is used.
4. The object of this activity is to get all players from one side of the spider web to the other by either crawling through on their own or being lifted through by others. Planning and trust are a part of this activity; without them it cannot be successfully completed.
5. Be sure to use a large gym mat under the spider web. Talk about safety before you start the activity. Someone always has to be a spotter when people are being lifted.
6. Set up the scenario with the group with a story similar to the following: A pack of angry gazelles is after your group, and you must run to safety. The only way to get to the safe area is to go through the poisonous spider web. The group must get everyone through before they can go on. No one can touch any part of his or her body or clothing to the web, or they will become motionless for one minute and cannot be passed through the web. Try to save everyone before the angry gazelles get to you.
7. Step back and watch the group plan and execute their ideas. Remind them that each hole can only be used three times.
8. You can set a time limit if you want to put a little pressure on the group; 15 to 30 minutes is usually enough time.
9. Process the activity:

- How did you go about planning out this activity?
- Did everyone get a chance to share their ideas? Is that good or bad?
- Did anyone emerge as a leader?
- Was it easy to trust the people lifting you through the web? Why?
- Did you run into any problems?
- Did everyone get over safely?
- In what other real-life situations might you have to trust someone else to make a plan or help you through a situation?

This Is Me

Purpose: A low-threat activity that gives people a chance to work closely with someone; can be done early in the formation of a group

Group Size: 10 to 30

Time: 15 minutes

Supplies: A copy of the This is Me Worksheet and a pencil for each group member

Directions:

1. Give each student a worksheet (page 66) and a pencil.
2. Instruct everyone to mingle and find a partner. Partners will now exchange worksheets and draw one feature of each other's face on the paper.
3. The artists sign their names in the spaces corresponding to the facial feature they drew.
4. Then each student should find another partner, exchange papers, and draw one facial feature for that person, who in turn draws one of his or hers.
5. Continue this until all students have their faces completely drawn.
6. Then have each student sign the back of his or her portrait and give it to you.
7. When all are seated again, hold up each picture. Ask the group to try and guess the person shown in the drawing. It's amazing how well some of the portraits turn out!

Twelve Squares

Purpose: To have students interact with and discover information about others in the group

Group Size: 10 to 25

Time: 30 minutes

Supplies: A Twelve Squares Worksheet (or blank paper) and a pen or pencil for each student

Directions:

1. Distribute the Twelve Squares Worksheets (page 67) or have each student fold a piece of paper into twelve squares.
2. To begin, have each person find a partner. Each person is to ask the other a question that will reveal a piece of information. Some typical questions are: How many people are in your family? What is the best book you ever read? Who is your favorite cartoon character? What kind of contest would you like to win?
3. Each person writes his or her partner's name and answer in a square. After both partners ask and answer a question, they move on to talk with someone else.
4. Students may pose the same or a different question to each person. If they use a different question for each square, they should keep track of which question was asked each time.
5. After everyone has filled up their squares, the group sits in a circle.
6. Ask "What did you learn about [Name]?" All who have talked with that person share their responses. The sharing should happen at a quick pace.
7. Continue until the group has heard about each member.

Twelve Squares Worksheet
