

Where the Wind Blows

Impact:	Provides an opportunity for participants to learn about one another while having fun and moving around
Risk:	Low to high depending on questions
Group Size:	10 to 200
Time Required:	5 to 15 minutes
Materials:	One chair per participant

Directions:

- Arrange the chairs in a circle. Remove one chair so that there is one fewer chair than participants. Everyone sits in a chair except one person who is designated as "It." Explain to the group that whoever is "It" will stand in the middle of the circle and say, "The wind blows for anyone who...." "It" must insert a statement at the end of the sentence that he or she believes might apply to people in the circle. For example, "The wind blows for anyone who... is wearing earrings."
- After "It" says the sentence, participants to whom the statement applies must find another seat in the circle (without running). They cannot sit in the chair directly to the right or left of their current chair. Whoever ends up without a chair goes to the middle of the circle, becomes the new "It," and calls out the next category.

Caution: This game can get rowdy. Regulate speed.

Discussion:

- What did you learn about others that you did not know before you played this game?

Options:

- Write some topic ideas on a set of cards, and put them on the floor in the middle of the circle for "Its" who cannot think of a statement. You can also use the cards to raise riskier topics, such as "The wind blows for those who...live with only one parent, failed a class last year, have cried in the last six months," or to get people thinking about unusual characteristics such as "The wind blows for those who can wiggle their ears." Without these more challenging topics, the game tends to focus on players' appearance (clothes, shoe type, etc.).
- Try using the cards with a group that is gathered for a specific purpose. We once used it at a conference of food and farming activists. We wrote down statements related to the conference; for example, "The wind blows for anyone who ate locally grown food for breakfast." When only two people out of 70 got up, the group had an opportunity to see how poorly their actions supported their beliefs. This technique could be done with any interest group in order to stimulate discussion.