

Group Name Race

Impact: Gives participants an opportunity to hear everyone's name; offers the group fun, humor and challenge as people say their own name as fast as they can

Risk: Low

Group Size: Unlimited

Time Required: 5 to 10 minutes

Materials: A watch

Directions:

- Everyone stands or sits in a circle. The facilitator explains that this is a group challenge. The goal is for each person to say their name as fast as possible and see how long it takes to get around the circle. Participants cannot say their name until the person next to them says theirs. After one try, tell the group the time it took. Ask if the group thinks they can beat the time, and try again. Keep going until you reach the shortest time.

Name Racer

Impact: Teaches participants to listen carefully during other name games; helps people focus and study the names of those they do not know; for participants who decide not to take on the challenge, it's fun to watch people who are particularly skilled with names

Risk: Medium, for those who choose to be in the middle

Group Size: Unlimited

Time Required: 10 to 15 minutes

Materials: A watch

Directions:

- Everyone stands or sits in a circle. Ask if there is anyone who thinks that he or she can name everyone else in the circle. Usually several people will volunteer. Pick someone to go first, and time how quickly he or she can name everyone. Announce the time. Now ask for challengers to beat that time.

Names in the Air

Impact: Helps people get to know each other; introduces new people

Risk: Medium

Group Size: Unlimited

Time Required: 15 to 20 minutes

Materials: Tennis ball

Directions:

- Everyone in each group stands in a circle. The facilitator starts by saying their name and passing the ball to the person next to them.
- The facilitator says their name and passes the ball to someone else.
- The person who catches the ball says their name and passes it to someone else.
- Now the facilitator says their name and passes the ball to the person who caught the ball.

Discussion:

- How did you feel about this activity?
- What did you learn about your teammates?
- How did you feel about being in the middle?
- What advice did you notice from the people who were particularly skilled with names?