

Icebreakers

Icebreakers can serve to energize everyone at the start of your meetings. Here are some fun icebreakers to use at a meeting, before a service project or any time you need some interaction.

Hum-dinger

Preparation: Based on the number of people who'll be playing, decide how many groups there will be and how many people will be in each group. Pick a common song for each group, such as "Three Blind Mice" or "Home on the Range" and make a strip of paper with that song title written on it for each member of the group.

Directions: Distribute the strips randomly, telling participants not to share their song title with anyone else. Tell them, "Each of you has been given a piece of paper with a song title on it. Please look at it, but don't share it with anyone. When I say go, please wander around the room humming your tune until you find all of the other members of your group who will be humming the same song."

Question ball

Preparation: Purchase a large beach ball. Use a permanent marker to write a number in each section of the ball. On a sheet of paper, write questions that correspond with each number such as "What is your favorite TV show?" or "What is the title of the last book you read?"

Directions: Have club members stand in a circle and throw the ball to each other. Each person answers the question associated with the number under his or her right thumb.

People bingo

Preparation: Look for a printable blank bingo card from the Internet. Type in each space a short description or trait such as "has two siblings" or "speaks another language" or "is left handed." Print off enough bingo cards for all the participants.

Directions: Pass out one bingo card to each person and make sure everyone has a pen or pencil. Then, everyone wanders around the room in order to find someone who fits the descriptions in the boxes and has them sign their name in the appropriate box. No signature can be used twice on any one bingo card. The first person to get a bingo wins.

Who am I?

Preparation: On strips of paper, write the names of famous celebrities, singers, cartoon characters, etc.

Directions: Tape one of the strips of paper to each person's back. Everyone then goes around the room trying to guess who they are by only asking "yes" or "no" questions of each other.