

ACTIVITY: SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION

Sometimes, especially with large groups, it’s easy for people to feel that they are close to only a handful of other group members. Reminding group members that they’re closely connected to everyone in the group – if only by the common commitment to community change – is a healthy way to strengthen relationships within your group.

OVERVIEW

This activity brings people together in a creative, fun way and helps group members get to know one another. You can use it as an icebreaker or with a large group to go a bit deeper in relationship building.

OBJECTIVES

- To promote youth-adult partnership
- To deepen relationships
- To have fun

TIME REQUIRED

25 minutes

SUPPLIES

No supplies are needed for this activity.

WHAT	TIME	HOW	MATERIALS
Step 1: Setting the context	3 min	<p>Tell the group, “We’re going to discover how many degrees of separation there are among members of this group. Everyone, please think of one question that would help you learn about someone else’s core – who they really are.”</p> <p>Give participants a few minutes to think of a good question.</p>	
Step 2: Asking questions	10 min	<p>Have participants ask their question to a few different people (probably about two or three – possibly only one person if the group is very small).</p>	
Step 3: Showing the connections	5 min	<p>Select a few people to stand up (e.g., people who have a July birthday). Then ask the rest of the group, “Did you ask your question to one of these people? If so, please stand up.”</p> <p>Ask this same question (“Did you ask your question to one of these people? If so, please stand up.”) five times in a row. By the fifth time you ask, everyone in the room who participated should be standing – thus, the six degrees of separation.</p>	
Step 4: Speaking out	5 min	<p>Ask participants to share the questions they were asked and the answers they gave, or the questions they asked and why they thought this was connected to a person’s core. Allow time for sharing.</p>	