

MORE THAN NAMETAGS: GROUP INTRODUCTIONS THAT STICK

AUTHOR(S): Jill Goldstein Smith

SUMMARY: Make “name tags” that can hang around a room for folks to get to know one another deeper than just a name. This is a great activity that includes individual writing, with optional creativity, and develops group cohesion.

GOALS: Participants will... Reflect on why and how they are present in this group, Learn names and more about one another, Engage in solo creativity, Develop lasting visuals to return to during ongoing group work

AUDIENCE: Pre-teens, Teens, or Adults at the start or middle of an ongoing group relationship

TIMING: 15 – 60 minutes

MATERIALS: Multiple colors of construction paper, scissors, markers, stapler, scotch tape, painter’s tape, speaker/music (optional)

SET-UP: Space for individuals to work and surfaces for writing, ideally wall space for hanging nametags where they can be revisited over time

SESSION OUTLINE

Prep:

- Choose 5 colors of construction paper
- Pre-cut thick strips (can be half sheets) of each color of construction paper (enough for each person to have one of each color, plus some extras for mistakes)

SHARE FRAMING:

At many gatherings, people get a nametag with their given name – but there is so much more to know about each other. During large conferences, they often distribute ribbons to go below your name that provide other identifiers (i.e. alum of a program, specific identity or affinity group, a special interest, member of a task force/committee, etc.). This activity will allow us to showcase our names, and how we wish to be known more specifically and deeply, but one another. It also allows us to spark ongoing conversation by taking our nametags off our bodies and displaying them in a shared communal space to return back to with curiosity and openness.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Take one piece of paper for each color. Then, follow the prompt that goes along with each coordinating color and write, draw, and decorate that ribbon for your nametag. Remember to leave a border around the edges of each 'ribbon' so they won't be covered up. (See example photos, and make your own example in advance.)

EXAMPLE PROMPTS:

Feel free to adjust and adapt for your group's unique circumstances!

White – Name and Pronouns

Yellow – Primary role or specialty area

Green – What are you good at, related to camp overall? How can you help others here?

Purple – things that bring you joy, fun, may help you live in the moment

Blue – what you need help with

Pink/Red – what are you here for? The WHY behind your presence here

WRAP UP:

Display the nametags, ideally hanging in a communal space where people can return to on an ongoing basis throughout their time together. Invite people to share something from their nametag, but not everything – leave excitement and curiosity!

CORNERSTONE RESOURCE

