

# Small Group Ice Breakers

[continued]

## In the Square

[also called "Standing Free"]

**Task:** To get the entire group together inside a square taped onto the floor.

**Set up:** ➔ A Square needs to be placed on the ground or floor using heavy masking tape.

➔ It is preferable to use tape that is 2 inches wide or wider.

➔ For a group of 8 people, 18" square works well.

**Clarification:** 1] Members support each other, both in a physical way and in terms of team spirit.

2] No member's foot can remain outside the square.

(Touching the tape is okay as long as no one's foot goes over!)

3] No other part of any member's body may touch the ground outside the square.

**Challenge:** To hold the group inside the square for at least three seconds!

The group should shout together, "One! Two! Three!"

**Caution:** Remember to start with a **SAFE AREA** —and maintain that safety throughout the activity!

## Spelling Bee

**Task:** To form as many words as possible with at least three/four (facilitator must decide) letters using only the letters from the camp's full name.

**Set up:** ➔ Using large butcher paper, a flip chart or newsprint, write the camp's full name in large block letters at the top of the sheet. When the facilitator gives the word, the group begins to call out as many words they can form as possible. Two members do the recording. The time limit is two minutes.

## Make an Animal

**Task:** Entire group composes itself as an "animal."

**Steps:** 1] The group decides together what animal it wants to be.

2] The group goes about composing itself as that animal so that every member is a part of the animal. (Using "props" is okay).

3] Once the animal has been "formed," the group must choreograph it moving.

**Challenge:** To "perform" the animal moving so that the rest of the groups can guess what the animal is. [No hints allowed!]

**Hint:** Exclude giraffes and elephants from the animal list and you will get more variety and creativity from all your groups!

## Group Cheer

**Task:** Entire group must compose a "cheer" that includes all members.

**Steps:** 1] The group decides together what to name itself.

2] The group devises a "cheer" that...

a) uses all the group members;

b) has words, phrases, rhymes, tune, etc.;

c) has movement;

d) has interaction among group members.

(Using "props" creatively is also okay).

**Challenge:** To "perform" the cheer for the other groups.

# Small Group Ice Breakers

[final page]

## Make a Structure

**Task:** The same as "Make an Animal," except the entire group composes itself as a structure, the identity of which the others will guess. (Suggestions: Eiffel Tower; Golden Gate Bridge; Empire State Building; Statue of Liberty; Pyramid, etc.)

**Steps:** 1] The group decides together what it wants to be.  
2] The group goes about composing itself so that every member is a part of the structure. (Using "props" is okay).

**Challenge:** To pose as the structure so that the rest of the groups can guess what it is. No verbal hints allowed!

## Riddles # 1

[see page 16 for first set of riddles]

**Task:** To solve as many of the riddles as possible on the list provided by the facilitator.

**Set up:** ➔ The facilitator provides the group with a closed envelope which contains a list of riddles. The facilitator also provides an answer sheet and one writing implement. (Note: it is helpful to provide two or three copies of the list so all group members can easily see and participate.)

➔ When the facilitator gives the word, the group opens the envelope and solves as many of the riddles as possible in the two minute time limit.

**Note:** It is important for the facilitator to have each group **stop!** at the end of the time limit! The facilitator scores the answers for each group.

## Riddles #2

[see page 17 for second set of riddles]

**Task:** To solve as many of the riddles as possible on the list provided by the facilitator.

**Set up:** ➔ The facilitator provides the group with a closed envelope which contains a list of riddles. The facilitator also provides an answer sheet and one writing implement. (Note: it is helpful to provide two or three copies of the list so all group members can easily see and participate.)

➔ When the facilitator gives the word, the group opens the envelope and solves as many of the riddles as possible in the two minute time limit.

## Notes about Small Group Ice-Breakers

- ☞ Small group ice breakers work best when you have a "team" of facilitators who are well prepared.
- ☞ Set a time limit for the actual time spent at each "station" doing the activity.
- ☞ When a group comes to a new station, allow ample time for instructions, directions and questions.
- ☞ Choose a dynamic senior staff member to be your "Master of Ceremonies." This is the person who calls for scores, signals the beginning of each time period and generally runs the show. The more your MOC can embellish, the more fun everyone will have!
- ☞ Debrief at the end by talking about the balance between fun and safety, and by reiterating your goal of providing campers with an environment that is physically and emotionally safe this summer. If there is any "lesson" to be gotten from ice-breakers, it is to have fun and play safe!