

These ice breakers are intended for agent use, with Extension councils as the primary target audience. This handout was not developed to share externally and is not formatted for distribution.

Activity 1:

“When I was in High School” Pair and Share*

Materials needed: Pen or pencil and an index card or sticky note for each participant

Activity time: 10-20 minutes depending upon group size

Activity Instructions:

This activity can serve as both an icebreaker and an introduction activity. Participant responses will vary across the generations represented in the group.

1. Provide each person with a pen or pencil and an index card or sticky note.
2. Ask participants to pair up with a partner.
3. Once partners are together, each pair should do introductions, writing the name of their partner on the index card or sticky note.
4. Each person should then note their partner’s answer to this question: What is one new technology, tool or appliance you associate with your high school years?
5. Go around the room asking each participant to introduce their partner – first and last name – and share the technology or appliance noted (ex. John Smith – cordless telephone)
6. Consider ending the activity by noting that the responses vary across generations and demonstrative the diversity of generations in the room.

Activity 2:

Is It True?

Materials needed: None

Activity time: 10-20 minutes

Activity Instructions:

This activity provides a fun way to do introductions and learn a little about each other.

- Share with the group that it is time for introductions – with a twist.
- Each person will share their name, then share two things they have done through Extension – one that is true and one that is not.
- As each person shares, ask the group to guess which of the two things shared is the truth.

Activity 3:

Suited Together*

Materials needed: A deck of playing cards divided by suit

Activity time: 10-20 minutes

Activity Instructions:

This activity will give the group a chance to move around the room, network with other participants, and identify ideas/goals for the council.

1. Pass out a playing card per person (face down) using an equal number of cards from each suit.
2. Once each person has a card, ask participants to look at their card and take notice of the suit.
3. Participants should then begin moving around the room to find others with a card from the same suit, BUT they cannot talk or show their card. Participants should use non-verbal cues and actions to depict the card's suit.
4. Once participants are in groups by suit, share that they have 5 minutes to do introductions within the group and to create a list of three things they would like to see the Extension Council accomplish.
5. When the time has elapsed, ask each group to share their list of three potential accomplishments for the Extension Council, making note of the topics/ideas on a flipchart or via computer and projected on-screen in the room.

Activity 4:

Extension on the Line

Materials needed: None

Activity time: 10 minutes

Activity Instructions:

This icebreaker provides an opportunity to have participants move around in the room while learning a little about each other. Feel free to adapt the callouts/statements for forming each line as preferred.

1. Ask participants to all move to the front or back of the room, whichever location provides participants space to move about and line up across the room as you share a series of statements.
2. Once the participants are all in the designated area, ask them to line up across the room by birth month with January on the left and December on the right. This is an easy statement to demonstrate how to organize across the line depending on individual responses.
3. Ask the group to now line up by length of residency in the county, with less than 10% of your life on the left and all your life on the right.

4. Share that the next line will be based on the length of time you have volunteered or participated in Extension programs – with a year or less on the left and more than 25 years on the right. Fill in along the line for 1-25 years.
5. Wrap up this activity with a few statements about motivation for volunteering. The left will be for those who do not identify the statement as a primary motivation for volunteering and the line will span across to the right which means it is a primary motivation for volunteering.
 - a. I volunteer because it is important to help others.
 - b. Volunteering helps me learn by doing.
 - c. Volunteering can help me advance in my career.
 - d. I volunteer because I am committed to community service.
 - e. Volunteering gives me a break from my personal challenges.
6. Share a message of appreciation to the council members for dedicating a portion of their volunteer service time to serving on the council.

Activity 5:

Out of the Ordinary*

Materials needed: Pen or pencil and an index card or sheet of paper for each group, a wooden ruler (optional – see number 4 in activity instructions) and a large box containing these or similar items:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. Small skillet or pan | 6. Large sheet of paper (11"x17" or flipchart) |
| 2. Jump rope | 7. Garden spade or trowel |
| 3. Envelope | 8. Frisbee |
| 4. Wooden spoon | 9. Bandana |
| 5. Rubber band | 10. Pencil |

Activity time: 10 minutes

Activity Instructions:

1. Divide the participants into small groups of 3-5 people.
2. Provide each group with a sheet of paper or index card and pen or pencil.
3. Ask each group to retrieve one item from the box.
4. Share with the group that it is now time to think creatively without focus on the ordinary. The task is to creatively brainstorm at least five ways to use their object OTHER THAN its traditional use. [If you want to provide an example, hold up a wooden ruler and share these six other potential uses: paint stirrer, row marker in a garden, furniture shim, kindling to start a fire, bookmark, craft project.]
5. Give groups 3-4 minutes to generate their list.
6. Ask groups to report out one by one and share at least three of the ideas from their lists.

Activity 6:

Greater Together*

This icebreaker provides a good means for participants to network and learn more about one another.

Materials needed: Writing paper or a flipchart page for each group, with a pen or marker as applicable.

Activity time: 15-20 minutes

Activity Instructions:

1. Divide the participants into small groups of 3-5 people each. [If you are using this with your County Extension Council, make sure the groups have members from multiple program councils.]
2. Provide each group with writing paper or a flipchart page and a pen or marker.
3. Share with groups that this activity provides a chance to learn more about each other while considering how the experiences and qualifications of individual members add up when you look at the cumulative for the team.
4. Ask each group to spend the next few minutes (5-10 suggested) creating a composite resume, summing skills and experiences for all team members. Things to consider including are:
 - a. Education
 - b. Total years of work experience
 - c. Career positions held
 - d. Skills summary including two or three skills from each group member
 - e. Total years of Extension volunteer experience
 - f. Cumulative list of volunteer and leadership experience in Extension
5. Ask each group to report out by sharing highlights from the composite resume.

*Adapted with permission for use in Kentucky from Global Courseware Inc., 2016 by Kim Henken, Director, Extension Engagement and Administrative Initiatives.