

Community Cake

Activities to Establish Community

ICEBREAKERS AND TEAM BUILDERS TO BUILD COMMUNITY

OBJECTIVES

- To create group ethos
- For each participant to identify an ingredient necessary for a strong community

MATERIALS

- Oven
- A box of cake mix and ingredients
- Cake pan
- Mixing bowl
- Mixing spoon

SETUP

- Preheat oven to 350°F.
- Divide the cake mix ingredients into five sections: eggs, water in a measuring cup, oil in a measuring cup, mix in a bowl, and the butter to grease the pan. Place each on its own tray.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Ask** participants, "**When do groups really feel like communities?**"
2. Use your **TALKING STICK** to allow a discussion to emerge.
3. **Affirm** the group's ideas and experiences.
4. Tell the group they will **bake a Community Cake** in this session.
5. Divide participants into **five groups** and **assign one of the trays to each group**.
6. **Explain** that **each group must discuss the key elements of community and then imagine what aspect of community building their assigned ingredient might represent**. For example, the eggs might represent "being friendly," "sharing materials," or "being honest."
7. Give each group **five minutes** to brainstorm their ideas.
8. Ask for a **volunteer baker** and **place the large mixing bowl** in front of them.

CONTINUED



Community Cake continued

9. Ask each group to **take turns placing their ingredient** into the large mixing bowl and to **share** what their ingredient represents.
10. Once all the ingredients are in the bowl, ask the baker to **mix everything** in the mixing bowl.
11. Ask the final group to **share** what the butter that was used to grease the pan represents and then have the baker **pour** the batter into a greased pan and **bake** according to the instructions.
12. **Continue** with the debrief while the cake bakes.
13. At the end of the session, ask each person to **share one thing a good community member does** and then **divide** the cake among the group.

DEBRIEF

- **How did you decide what your ingredients represented?**
- **Do you feel you or people you know have most of these ingredients?**
- **What could eating the community cake represent for us?**