

Values Into Action

Activities to Establish Community

ICEBREAKERS AND TEAM BUILDERS TO BUILD COMMUNITY

OBJECTIVES

- To define collective group values
- To identify concrete strategies to practice the group's chosen values

MATERIALS


- One value card per participant (see previous activity, **VALUE AUCTION**)
- Three pieces of poster board or flipchart paper
- Markers

SETUP

- Pass out values cards to each participant.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Ask each participant to **silently read the value card** they chose in the prior activity and to **imagine what it would look like if the whole group were to practice their chosen values** in future group interactions.
2. Although each participant has a value card that is important to them, explain that **it is also important to define a set of three to five values that most resonate with the whole group.**
3. Ask participants to **find a partner** whose **birthday is in the same season** as theirs.
4. Ask each person within the pair to **share the value card** they chose and **what they think it would look like** if group participants collectively practiced this value.
5. After about **five minutes** of discussion, **ask each pair to fuse with another pair** to form a four-pack.
6. Explain that each four-pack will now **repeat** the process of sharing the value they chose and how it could be practiced. However, this time the group must **prioritize two** of the four cards that they feel should be the group's core values.
7. Now, ask each four-pack to **fuse with another four-pack** to form a group of eight. **Repeat** the process of sharing their chosen cards and the reasons they chose them until they've **filtered it down to one value card.**

CONTINUED 

Values Into Action continued

8. Now ask each group of eight to **share** the cards they prioritized with the whole class and the reasons **why**.
9. Once all groups have presented their cards, ask the whole group to work together to select **three core values** to focus on.
10. **Spread** the three prioritized cards around the room.
11. Ask participants to **move to the value card** that is most important to them. This should create three distinct groups.
12. Ask each group to **make a poster** for their chosen value that **lists specific behaviors and actions** the group could take to practice this value. *For example, if the value is "friendship," they might list behaviors such as: "If someone is working alone, ask if they'd like to work with you. If someone tries to spread gossip about*

someone, ask them to stop. If someone is trying something for the first time, acknowledge that they are taking a risk and don't make fun of them."

13. Give each group **ten to fifteen minutes** to **brainstorm** actions for their value words and then ask them to **present** their posters to the group.
14. Ask the group to give a **thumbs-up** if they believe they can hold themselves to these values and actions.
15. **Explain** that in the beginning, **you (the facilitator) will help the group remember** their values and agreed-upon behaviors. As group members get to know each other better, they can also **help remind each other** of the values and agreements the group has established.
16. **Display the posters** in a visible area each time the group meets.

DEBRIEF

- What did you like about this process?
- What is inspiring about the values we chose?
- What would get in the way of your practicing or applying these values?
- When else do you make choices based on your values?