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|  | |  | | --- | |  | | WISCONSIN 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  Annual Volunteer Leader Training 2018-2019 What’s In a Name? | | Activity Plan | |
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| |  | | --- | | Objectives: | | The participants will:   * Share their full names. * Share information about their names that is important to them, culturally significant, or both. * Explore connections between the stories shared. | |  | | Life Skills: | | Sharing; Accepting Differences; Social Skills | |  | | Grade Levels or Audiences:  All ages | |  | | Time or Length of Experience:  20-25 minutes | | Supplies Needed: | | * Pre-prepared name tent (to use as an example) * Markers (various colors) * Cardstock in light various colors or white (1 per participant) | |  | | Do Ahead: | | Prepare your name tent to use as an example. Fold a sheet of cardstock in half lengthwise (landscape). Read the activity directions to learn how to decorate your name tent. Before the activity (if possible), put out the markers and cardstock ahead of time to cut down on time needed for activity.  Sources:  Adapted from the READY TO GO: MENTOR TRAINING TOOLKIT, Copyright 2012 Michigan State University Board of Trustees, Michigan State University Extension 4-H Youth Development. | |  | |  | | *Photo Source: University of Minnesota Extension*  BACKGROUND  Participants share information and stories about their names that are culturally significant and important to them by making name tents. This activity helps to prime them for conversation about cultural competency and personal values.  LEARNING EXPERIENCE  **Introduction:**  “Our names are one of the first things we share with others about ourselves. Learning more about our names provides an excellent opportunity to get to know someone more deeply than sharing just the name. Most people have some kind of story about how they got their names or what their names mean to them.  Reflect on your name. Think about what it means to you and what’s important to you about your name. Things to consider might be:   * Things about your name that bring you joy * Things that remind you of difficult times * Nicknames that you liked or disliked * How your name may or may not reflect your cultural heritage and how you feel about that * Stores about your name that represent things that are significant to you and to your identity.”   “I’ll share my name and some things about me to model the kinds of things you may want to think about sharing.”  Hold up your name tent. It should include your full name on both sides as well as words or pictures that represent you and your culture. Take a minute (or less) to share information and stories that are culturally significant and important to you.  Examples that people often come up with may include:   * Ethnic background and stories of how their names connect to their families of origin, or perhaps how their names have been changed or shortened sometimes by choice, sometimes not. * People often share being named after grandparents or other family members (first or middle names). * They may also share how their name may have been given to them based on religious or spiritual reasons (e.g. named after a Christian saint). * They will sometimes share whether or not they have changed their names due to adoption, marriage, divorce and what that has meant to them. * Some may talk about endearing nicknames that no one uses but close family. * Others share the pain and frustration of constantly having their name mispronounced.   Model sharing information about you and your name to help the participants get an idea of what they’ll put on their name tents  Hand out a sheet of cardstock and a few markers of various colors to each participant (unless you were able to put these out ahead of time). Read aloud or paraphrase the following:  “For the next 4 or 5 minutes, each of you will make your own name tent. First, take a piece of cardstock and fold it in half lengthwise. Use a marker to write your full name on both sides of the folded paper. Make your first name what you prefer people call you. Be creative and use the various colored markers to draw words and pictures around your name reflecting aspects of who you are.”  After 4 minutes, when you can see that most people have finished their name tents, have them share their names and stories in groups of three or four people whom they don’t know really well. If your group is small (less than 10), or if you have enough time, you can have all participants share their names for the larger group rather than in small groups. Allow about 10 minutes for sharing and make sure that everyone has a chance to speak (in small groups). When all participants have shared their name tents in their small groups, you can ask for 2-3 people to volunteer to share names and stories with the larger group (if time permits).  Ask the participants to put their name tents on the table in front of them so that their tents will help everyone get to know each other throughout the rest of the meeting. Having names on both sides of the tents helps those sitting next to or behind to also see the names.  REFLECT and apply  Guide participants through a discussion, using some or all of the questions and key points that follow. Be sure to give participants time to think about and respond to the questions.   * What was it like for you to think about aspects of your name that are important to you? * What was it like for you to hear others’ stories? * What similarities and differences did you notice about the stories?     Adapt the following key points to match the participant’s sharing/experience:  “Our names are often very important to us; they can be deeply connected to who we are, our families and our heritage--or not! Stories we share and hear about people’s names often include joy and great pride, but they may also include pain and frustration. Stories like these also help us to learn about important differences between us and how we can be more appreciative of those differences.  As we spend time together--today and in the future--let’s make a special effort to remember each other’s names, pronounce them accurately and use the information we’ve learned about each other to build positive relationships together.” |

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