



THE
COUNCIL
FOR BOYS AND YOUNG MEN

Growing Healthy, Going Strong



10-WEEK FACILITATOR

ACTIVITY GUIDE

For Ages 9 – 14

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Week Two Theme: GETTING CONNECTED

Through personal sharing, boys begin to develop their connections with each other. The activity is to engage boys by providing them with a modest challenge to help them identify each council member as a unique person with their own talents, skills and interests. The structure of the activity provides a forum for personal exchange and personal reflection that stems from personal choice.

ACTIVITY: “Guess Who” Activity (or Alternative as needed) and Discussion

MATERIALS: Boys’ paper bags with personal items; extra brown bags; various magazine pictures and images, glue sticks, scissors if appropriate to the environment; large table; index cards; pens.

PURPOSE

- To help boys to get to know each other better through recognition of their commonalities and differences
- To support boys in beginning to share more personally about themselves with each other

QUOTE FOR FACILITATOR: *“When you leave familiar ground and step into a new space there will be, along with feelings of curiosity and excitement, a little nagging of dread.”*

- Lani Chow, Ph.D.

FACILITATOR PREPARATION

- 1 Choose a Warm-Up Activity from the tabbed section of this guide.
- 2 Prepare the ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITY 1, in case some boys will not arrive with their brown bags of personal items: have some extra brown bags available; select and cut out many magazine images reflecting a variety of interests (nature, sports, cars, music, science, technology, people, etc.) and have glue sticks ready.
- 3 Follow the instructions under ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITY 1 **at the very beginning of this session as boys arrive.**
- 4 Collect the paper bags filled with the boys’ personal items and place their items (or images) outside of the bags on a large surface or table. Keep the identity of each boy’s items a secret until after the activity.
- 5 Place each boy’s items in its’ own cluster where it can be viewed.
- 6 Place a large index card and a pen in front of each cluster.

Note to Facilitator: It may happen that a boy will bring something that is very inappropriate. If this occurs, it will be important for the facilitator to acknowledge and discuss it. In addition, the group needs to have a discussion about this together. The facilitator will need to take whatever steps are appropriate given the setting and circumstances.



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OPENING RITUAL

Open with your chosen ritual that marks the beginning of your council.



THEME INTRODUCTION

- Introduce the theme of the week - "Getting Connected."
- Review The Council Agreements.



WARM-UP ACTIVITY

(Choose from tabbed section.)



CHECK-IN

Using the talking piece, go around the council, and have each boy "check in" about whatever he would like or he can respond to the following:

- How are you like other boys and how are you different from other boys?
- When you think of your father or another man in your family or extended family, what object or image comes to your mind?



ACTIVITY

Guess Who? (or use in combination with Alternative Activity, as needed)

- 1 Invite the boys to the table with all their items in groups of two or three. Direct the boys to look over the items and to guess which clusters belong to which boys.
- 2 Instruct the boys to use the index card placed in front of the cluster to write down their guess of who brought in that set of items.
- 3 When all of the boys have written down their guess, invite the boys up one at a time to reveal which cluster is his.
- 4 Ask him to share the significance of each item he chose to bring, i.e., Why did he choose this piece? What makes it meaningful? How does it represent him in some way?

Alternate for Activity 1: Guess Who?

(If boys have not come to group with 3-4 personal items in a paper bag.)

Determine prior to beginning group to adjust activity. Suggest that the boys prepare for the activity before Council begins, or play two rounds of a WARM UP Activity while these boys select images that represent their personal items.

- 1 Distribute paper to boys and suggest that he list 3-4 items by name AND description that he thinks most represents who he is and what is important to him that he keeps at home or in a safe place. If time allows



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at least 10 minutes, have the boys look through cut outs of magazines to match images to the items on his list, and glue to a blank index card. Place the list and the cards with images in the paper bag and give to the facilitator.

- 2 While boys engage in Warm-Up Activity, the facilitator will write down the name and description of each item from the list on separate blank index cards, or match to the image glued to a card. This will create a single penmanship on the cards in an effort to avoid boys guessing based on penmanship for the activity. Return the cards to the bag, repeating for each boy until all boys have a bag. Then place the bags on the table in a line-up or cluster.
- 3 Follow instructions #2-4 above for the rest of the activity.



REFLECTION

Ask:

- What was it like to think of 3-4 items that represent you?
- Why did you choose the items that you did?
- In what ways do these items tell others about you?
- How did you decide what NOT to bring in to share and why not?
- What can we tell about others by the things they value, own, possess, or want?
- How have you thought about others by the things they have or seem to have?
- Who is someone you know who has little in the way of possessions, but you can tell a lot about anyway?

Pass the talking piece around this final question:

- What is one interest you have seen or heard about from someone here today that you too have some common interest in?



CLOSING RITUAL

Complete this weeks council with your groups closing ritual.