

Icebreakers at the beginning of a meeting, are a great way to build a rapport and trust among your neighborhood association. Icebreakers and getting acquainted exercises are important elements of team building as your group comes together each month and especially when bringing in new members.

This activity will create an atmosphere of both fun and trust among members.

The key to team building is to provide fun, creative, lighthearted activities for each member of your group to get to know one another. The ideas below can be implemented throughout the year to create a strong organizational team or to liven up a meeting.

### Examples of Icebreakers

- **Circle Introduction:** Have the participants stand in a circle. They have two minutes to find out who the person to their left is and some interesting facts about him/her. Each person will introduce the person on their right to the whole group.
- **Getting To Know You:** Divide a large group of people into smaller groups and have them answer the questions listed below and have each group share their answers.
  - My expectations of the group
  - What I can give to the group
  - Something that bothers me about the group
  - I will strive to...
- **Name Game:** Sit in a circle. One person starts by using an adjective starting with the same letter as their first name, followed by their first name (i.e. Clever Claire, Kind Karen) The next person and following has to repeat the first person's adjective and name and then add their own. It goes around the circle and the last person has to repeat all other names in order and end with their own.
- **Dyads:** Members get into groups of two and find out information about each other.
  - What is the best movie you have seen recently?
  - What is the title of the last book you have read?
  - If you could be any animal other than human, what would you be?
  - If you could travel to any place in the world, where would you go and why?
  - One adjective to describe me is....

### Four reasons to use icebreakers:

1. To help people feel more comfortable with the group.
2. To break up the cliques. People will be asked to form random groupings, which will force people to meet one another in a non-threatening and fun way.
3. To set a tone for the meeting, where people will feel comfortable sharing thoughts and ideas.
4. To foster team building within the group.

These are just a few examples of icebreaker activities. Find icebreakers that will work best for your neighborhood association and the goals you'd like to accomplish.