

Network Bingo

Objectives

- To get to know group members
- To kick-start group forming stage for an intact group or as part of an on-boarding program
- To break the ice and allow for people to mingle in a structured yet not forced ways

Trainer Instructions

Note: This exercise is best done with a group at the very beginning of a full or multi-day program, or at the beginning of strategic planning or a group retreat. The activity is intended for people to break the ice and get to know each other on a slightly deeper level than just knowing each other's names. It is also a fun and interactive activity that builds up the group energy in a structured and safe way.

1. As the group enters the room, the facilitator distributes a copy of network bingo and a pen or pencil to each individual.
2. Instruct the team that you would like them to yell "BINGO" each time they complete a row, a column or a diagonal line of signatures.
3. As the team interacts, the energy will start building up in the room.
4. After enough time has lapsed and many people have yelled "BINGO," ask the group to stop.
5. The facilitator then asks the group to stand in a large circle formation.
6. The facilitator then proceeds to instruct the group that they will read a few of the activities listed on the Network Bingo sheet out loud. Instruct the team that when they hear a category/activity that they did for them to walk into the circle and high-five the group of people who performed that similar activity, all at once. This will heighten the energy in the room even further.
7. The Network Bingo sheet below is just an example. The facilitator can customize the categories depending on their level of knowledge of the group and what they do.

Category

Group Intro/Forming Stage

Opener and Socializer activity

At the beginning of a half, full, or multi-day program or to introduce people to each other and to break the ice

Exercise Stage

Basic stand alone, as a starter to a full day to a multi-day of experiential activities

Number of Participants

Minimum: 8 (possible for a small group to engage with this content—but the benefits of group-level interaction are missing)

Ideal: 16 - 25

Maximum: No maximum number

Time Required

Minimum: 15 minutes

Maximum: 45 minutes

Materials Needed

- Writing utensils (one per participant)
- Networking Bingo sheets (one per participant). Example below



NETWORK BINGO

Find someone in the group who fits a category listed below. Greet them and ask them to sign their name or initials in square. Each person may sign **only one** square on your "BINGO" card. Try to complete every square on the card.

Can play a musical instrument	Has volunteered within the last month	Has an often mispronounced name	Has met a head of state	Has their own business
Has been to a professional soccer game	Works best under pressure	Speaks more than one language fluently	Has children	Has given blood
Can sign THIS box only because every other category is taken or not true	Can do something equally well either left or right handed	Has traveled to all five continents	Has more than two pets	Has participated in team building activities
Has fulfilled this year's New Years resolution	Has lived outside of the US	Has bungee jumped or sky-dived	Has seen the Egyptian pyramids	Banks on-line
Likes jazz music	Has been to the top of the Eiffel Tower	Has lived in the Washington metropolitan area for their entire life	Has a twin	Has more than 4 siblings

