

Icebreakers

The strength of an organization often comes from differences among members. To be a cohesive group, it is important to develop a relationship with one another. Icebreakers can increase participation. They can be fun and help build relationships. Icebreakers should not take more than 10 minutes

Circle Introduction

Have everyone seated in a circle (or if the group is very large, use several circles). Allow a brief time for everyone to speak with the person on her right, and learn the person's name. Then ask each person to introduce that individual to the group and describe her with words that start with her initials. For example, "On my right is Chris Bates, who is as cute as a button," or "This is Judi Fisher, who is judicious and fun-loving."

Getting to Know You

All members start this activity in a seated position. Or if some members have physical limitations, choose another signal, such as "Hold up your right thumb." Then the leader gives the following, or similar, instructions for participants to follow:

- * If you traveled this summer, stand up.
- * If you have a brother, stand up.
- * If you are the youngest of the children in your family, stand up.
- * If you own a pet, stand up.
- * If you have a sister, stand up.
- * If your family owns a computer, stand up.
- * If you live in an apartment, stand up.
- * If this is your first year in the Society (as an officer, as Committee Chair), stand up.
- * If you are actively teaching (retired), stand up.
- * If you were kissed by someone this morning, stand up.

At this point in the activity, give a (chocolate) kiss to all those who are standing and saying, "We all need a kiss a day!" Share after each question as time permits. (Everyone should receive a chocolate kiss.)

M&M Topics

Pass around a bowl of M&M's, and ask each participant to take only one, and ask her not to eat it. If you chose a particular color you have 10 seconds to share something about the following topics:

- Red - family
- Yellow - hobby
- Blue - DKG memory
- Brown - teaching memory
- Green - favorite flower
- Orange - favorite song

Feel free to create your own topics for responses.

What Do You Like To Read?

Materials: Posters placed around the room listing different categories of books, e.g., fiction, non-fiction, mystery, historical fiction, etc.

Directions:

1. Each person will select a category that represents his or her favorite type of leisure reading and stand by the poster.
2. Within the group, readers can share favorite books and authors.

Scavenger Hunt

Materials: List of people to look for

Directions:

1. Distribute a Scavenger Hunt sheet so each participant has a copy. Explain the rules.
2. Each person has 10 minutes to obtain the greatest number of signatures from the members in the group. Each signature can be used only once. (List may need to be adjusted to the size of your chapter.)
3. At the end of 10 minutes, stop the activity and add the total number of signatures. Prizes may be given to those with the most signatures.

4. See sample Scavenger Hunt Sheet below.

Scavenger Hunt Sheet

- Find three people who love chocolate.
- Find one person who is a bird watcher.
- Find two people who like to sing in the shower.
- Find three people who were born in this state.
- Find one person who has played on a tennis team.
- Find two people who speak a foreign language.
- Find one person who has the same favorite movie you do.
- Find three people with the same color hair as yourself.
- Find two people with the same shoe size as yourself.
- Find one person whose birthday is within 30 days of your own.
- Find a person who has the same first initial as yours.
- Find three people who voted in the last presidential election.
- Find two people who love chocolate ice cream.
- Find two people who are the same height as you.
- Find two people who talk on the phone 30 minutes a day.
- Find three people who are tea drinkers.
- Find two people with the same astrological sign.
- Find two people who like the same flower as you.

Chronology

Search chapter records and compile the names of all who have been members since your chapter was chartered. Develop a chronological listing according to each member's date of initiation. (Be sure to use initiation dates instead of transfer dates.) International Headquarters can supply missing initiation dates.

This listing provides information that can be useful in many ways:

- Honoring members for significant number of years of membership, i.e., 50 years, 40 years, 30 years, 25 years, 20 years
- Structuring chapter committees to include diverse levels of Delta Kappa Gamma involvement and experience
- Presenting clear picture of composition of chapter's active membership

- Analyzing resignations and dropped memberships
- Planning Society-focused programs, i.e., chapter heritage, building knowledge of the Society, reaffirmation and renewal
- Developing a chapter profile

Reserved Seating

Use colored ribbons or place cards to identify members' seats at an event. Members must seat themselves at a place with a ribbon or card color that corresponds with their years of membership in Delta Kappa Gamma, years of teaching, or level of instruction. Use the colors listed below (Identification Ribbons) or create your own color-coding.

Identification Ribbons

This activity is a good "mixer" at the beginning of a meeting and produces an item that gives "at a glance" information about each member's career experience.

Materials needed:

Short strips (3" – 5") of grosgrain ribbon in various colors

Medium-sized plastic beads in various colors

Medium safety pins

Procedure:

Lay out cut strips of ribbon. You will need to provide a different color for each instructional area represented within your chapter's membership. For example:

Pink = kindergarten, primary grades

Yellow = elementary grades

Light green = middle school

Light blue = high school

Dark green = college or university

Dark blue = other (such as chapter honorary)

Set out small bowls of beads. You will need a separate bowl for each, as well as a different color to represent the number of years of experience. For example:

White = 1 year+

Yellow = 5 years+

Red = 10 years+

Blue = 20 years+

Green = 30 years+

Each member takes a ribbon from the materials that signifies her area of employment. To the ribbon, she pins a safety pin on which she has added colored beads to signify her years in educational work. The resulting identification ribbon can be worn separately or attached to a name tag.

Questions for Conversation Starters

1. What was your favorite TV show as a child? Which TV show is the first you remember watching?
2. If you could suddenly find out that one work of fiction was actually true, what book would you select?
3. If you could travel into the future, how far would you want to go?
4. A co-worker needs to leave early and asks you to punch her time card when you leave. Do you do it?
5. Do you think that the world will be a better or a worse place 100 years from now?
6. Who is the most important person in your life?
7. If you could have had the starring role in one movie already made, which movie would you pick?
8. If you could change anything about the way you were raised, what would it be?
9. What thought or sentiment would you like to put into one million fortune cookies?
10. Like milk or the newspaper, you could have anything of your choice delivered to your doorstep every morning, what particular item would you want it to be?
11. Would you enjoy an enormous fortune differently if you had inherited it rather than if you had earned it yourself?

12. Describe yourself in one word.

13. If you could have a romance with any fictional character, who would it be?

14. If you could undo one thing your parents did, what would it be?

15. If you were to name the absolute best gift you ever received as a child, what would it be?

Scavenger Hunt

(Each signature can be used only **once**.)

Find a Member Who...

Loves chocolate

Is a bird-watcher

Likes to sing in the shower

Not born in Michigan

Played on a soccer team

Speak a foreign language

Has the same color hair as you

Has the same shoe size as you

Has the same astrological sign as you

Has the same first initial as yours

Is person taller than you

Talks on the phone 30 minutes a day

Is a tea drinker

Teaches in the same district they were a student

Acrostic

Have each person write the letters of her name on the left side of the paper forming a vertical line. Members are to think of words starting with each letter of their name which describe themselves and their special characteristics and traits.

What It Was Like When I Was a Teenager

Have each individual in a small group identify the time period of her teenage years. Ask her to complete the following items and then share the information with their group:

What was...

Your favorite food

The popular movie you remember the most

The most trendy car

Your favorite candy bar

Your favorite breakfast cereal

The most popular music group

The kind of dance popular then

The most popular song

The hairstyle of that time

Your favorite soft drink

The wages you earned per hour

What you hoped to become in life

Silly Personality Test

1. Divide a sheet of paper in half, and, then in half again.
2. Number the sections of your booklet from one to four.
3. Write your favorite color on page one. Then, describe that color with three adjectives.
4. Write your favorite animal on page two. Then, describe that animal with three adjectives.
5. Write three words on page three that describe how you feel about going into a room that has no windows, the walls are all painted white, you are all by yourself, and the door is locked behind you.
6. On page four, write down a place you would like to visit. Money is no object and you will have all the time you need to really enjoy this place. Then, write three adjectives describing this "paradise" of your choosing.
7. The adjectives on page one describe how you see yourself.
8. The adjectives on page two describe how others see you.
9. The adjectives on page three describe how you feel on a bad day.

10. Oh! Oh! The adjectives on page four describe your love life!

A Candy Test to Reveal Your True Self

Have some miniature candy bars of each type available to pass out. After they choose their favorite candy, read the Answers.

Answers to Test

Baby Ruth – Sweet, loving, cuddly. You love warm fuzzies. You're a little nutty. Sometimes you need an ice cream cone at the end of the day.

3 Musketeers – You are adventurous, love new ideas, are a champion of the underdog, and a slayer of dragons. When tempers flare up, you whip out your saber.

Butterfinger – Smooth, articulate, you are an excellent after-dinner speaker and a good teacher. But don't try to walk and chew gum at the same time.

Snickers – Fun-loving, sassy, humorous. Everyone enjoys being around you, but you are a practical joker. Others should be cautious in shaking hands with you!

Hershey Bar – Romantic, warm, loving. You care about other people and can be counted on in a pinch. You tend to melt.

Almond Joy – Sexy, always ready to give and receive, very energetic, and enjoys life. The opposite sex is always attracted to you.

Clark Bar – You like sports, whether it be baseball, football, basketball, or soccer. If you could, you would like to participate, but you enjoy watching sports. You don't like to give up the remote control.

Good 'n' Plenty – You are a very fun-loving person who likes to laugh. You are fun to be around. People like to hang out with you. You are warm-hearted.

Chocolate-Coated Raisins – You go to the bathroom often.