

Common Corners Icebreaker

DESCRIPTION: Common Corners is an icebreaker where people get to know each other based on items they have in common. It takes a bit of prep, but is a great way for members to get to know each other, and is easy to do multiple meetings in a row. Allow for 10 minutes minimum to get through 2-3 rounds of questions. People tend to enjoy this one, so plan longer time than you think it will take.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- 1) A room with four “corners” – you can make up corners if needed.
- 2) Signs in each corner representing choices. I’ve typically done it this way:
 - a. Red construction paper in each corner has answers for Common Corner question 1, Orange construction paper has answers for question 2, Yellow for question 3, etc.
 - b. Example: one red sheet would have 55425, another 55420, another 55431 and last 55437/55438 (zip codes in Bloomington). Each red sheet would go in a separate corner. Below the red sheets would be orange: under the red sheet with 55425 would be an orange sheet with 1 child. Below that would be a yellow sheet with K-1st grade, and so on.

HOW IT WORKS: Before the meeting, place the answers for each question in the various corners of the room. During your meeting, allow for a minimum of 10 minutes to get through 2-3 rounds of questions. You can always repeat the icebreaker at future meetings with new questions and answers.

You tell attendees they will be getting up, moving around, and introducing themselves to other people they have something in common with. Announce your first option and have people go to the corner with the answer that fits them. Then, tell them to introduce themselves to one other person in the same corner. (As the facilitator, you choose whether you go to a corner or not – I typically went to the one with the smallest group, not necessarily the one that fit my answer)

Repeat until you run out of time.

Common Corner Options:

- Neighborhood (zip code, near landmark, etc)
- Number of Children (1, 2, 3, 4+)
- Ages/Grades of Children (ex. K-1st/ 2nd- 3rd/ 4th-5th) – you don’t always need to have four choices

First three choices are best for groups just getting to know each other. PTA’s in small communities, or those together a long time may not need these options

- Hobbies (reading, cooking, exercising, crafting)
- Place to travel on vacation with kids (amusement park, snow skiing, ocean, camping)
- Where I Grew up (Twin Cities, Greater Minnesota, United States, International)