

Getting To Know You by Carol Duerksen

MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION:

- These are games for youth and their parents, so invite the parents
- Small slips of paper and pencils
- Refreshments
- Aprons or other ways to protect clothing
- Long tables and Chairs for each person
- Extra large sweatshirts—one for every two people
- Additional activities for the third game—see below

SESSION OUTLINE

WELCOME YOUTH AND THEIR PARENTS TO THIS TIME TOGETHER.

- 1 Hand out slips of paper and ask each person to put their name on their slip and hand it back. Mix the slips up and then hand them out again.

The basis of this game is that each person will answer questions directed toward them as they think the person on their paper would answer it. Anyone can ask anyone else questions, but the questions should not be things that would obviously give away who the person is. For example, the question “Where do you work?” should not be asked. Some examples of questions that could be asked:

- What is your favorite color?
- What is your favorite vacation spot?
- What is your favorite music group?
- Do you text?
- Do you do Facebook?
- What would be your perfect job or career?

Note: If the person being asked has no idea how to answer the question, they should make an “educated guess.” Also, warn people about looking at the person on their slip when they answer. It will be easy to do that as they think about their answer, but it’s a dead giveaway.

When a person thinks they know who someone else is, they can guess. Continue until everyone has been guessed, then spend some time talking about the new things they learned about each other.

- 2 The second game is charades. Divide into two teams—each team has both students and parents, but family members are not on the same team. Each team comes up with book and movie titles that they think are favorites of their family members on the opposite team. Put the titles on small slips of paper, then draw slips of paper and act them out.
- 3 The third activity involves a person seated at a table, with another person seated directly behind them. The person behind has his/her arms in a large sweatshirt that the front person is “wearing.” The back person’s arms and hands become those of the front person, and are used to feed the front person. A variation on this could include putting make-up on or doing something “crafty” with the hands. You’ve probably seen this activity before. Make this a “family event” by having family members do it with each other, trading back and forth so they all have the experience.
- 4 Close by getting into a group circle and ask each person to complete this sentence: “The most fun thing about my (parent, son, daughter) is _____.”