

Break the Ice to Become a Chapter Community Champion

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Faculty Disclosure

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Objectives

- Learn how to create a welcoming chapter environment
- Gain ideas for icebreaker and getting-to-know-you activities

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What is a chapter community?

An environment in which members can easily find a place to connect with other members, and contribute to the success of the chapter with their unique skill sets and talents.

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A welcoming environment is key to a positive community. It helps members feel **PROUD** of their membership.

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Why do we care about pride?

Satisfied Customers Tell Three Friends,
Angry Customers Tell 3,000

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Does your chapter have a welcoming environment?

- Is full of enthusiasm, respect, and positive energy.
- Supports working together and building rapport with one another.
- Encourages questions and feedback.
- Discourages intimidation.

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An icebreaker serves to
relieve inhibitions or
tension between people,
or start a conversation

Show of Hands:
Who here cringed at the thought of doing an
icebreaker?

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What ice do we need to break?

1. If you bring together like-minded people together, *the ice* represents the fact that people haven't met yet.
2. If you bring together people from different backgrounds and cultures, *the ice* represents the different perceptions of one another.
3. If you bring together people at different levels of an organization, *the ice* represents the perception of status differences within the organization.
4. If you bring together attendees and speakers, *the ice* represents the question "Why should I listen to you?"

Who will facilitate?

- Look for someone who:
 - Has excellent communication skills.
 - Has a friendly and patient disposition
 - Has apt knowledge of the given subject for the discussion
- Potential facilitators:
 - Active members
 - Non-nursing professor

What groups need broken ice?

1. Board members
2. New members
3. Event attendees

What ice do we need to break for board members?

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Board Members

- Focus on team building and getting-to-know-you activities
 - Helps identify work/communication styles and preferences
 - Helps to minimize conflict
- Have a small activity before every meeting; larger activities once a year (when new board members arrive)

Life Highlights Activity

Team Building Ideas - Small

- **Two Truths and a Lie (15 minutes)**

Each person writes down two true statements about themselves, and then one lie. They read each statement to the group, who will try to identify the lie.

- **Show and Tell (10 minutes)**

Board members take turns to “show off” something that they are proud of. It can be related to their board role, job, or personal life.

- **Question Ball (10-15 minutes)**

On a beach ball, write several “icebreaker” questions. Throw the ball to someone; whatever question their thumb lands on, they have to answer. They then throw the ball to the next person.

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Team Building Ideas - Large

- **Find 5 (30 minutes to 1 hour)**
Each group must find 5 things that they all have in common.
- **The Human Web (30 minutes to 1 hour)**
Keeping one end, pass the ball to one of the participants, who introduces themselves and their role. Once this person has made their introduction, they pass the ball of yarn on to another person in the group. The person receiving the ball must describe how s/he expects to relate to that person's role.
- **Personality/Work Preference Assessment (1 hour)**
Ask everyone to complete a questionnaire in advance of the meeting to identify their personality type. Share the personality types in the meeting and what their traits are.

What ice do we need to break for new members?

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New Members

- This can be members who:
 - Were recently inducted
 - Recently transferred
 - Recently renewed after a period of inactivity
- Need to get to know each other AND the chapter
- Half of your new members won't renew next year. How can we get them involved right away?

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What does the perfect membership look like
to you?

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New Member Orientation

1. Have a Welcoming Team to greet new members and hand out name tags
2. Conduct your ice breaker activity
3. Explain the board structure and introduce leaders who are present. Ask them to explain their role and what they work on.
4. Talk about upcoming events and open opportunities for involvement and allow them to sign up to volunteer.
5. Give gifts!

Additional icebreakers for new members

- **Speed Connect** - Like speed dating, the thought is to give everyone in the room a chance to meet. After a few minutes of conversation, half the people at the table will move to the next table (the other half will stay.)
- **Digital Scavenger Hunt** - Use your chapter website to host a scavenger hunt. Achieve all the goals (i.e., send 10 contact requests and post an introduction to our discussion forum) to be entered to win a prize
- **Human Bingo** – Your members have to find people who match the descriptions on their bingo board (Find a chapter leader, someone with the same specialty, someone who has traveled outside of the country, etc.)

What ice do we need to break for event attendees?

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Table Topics Activity

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Event Attendees

- **Quick poll** - Do a “show of hands” in relation to the topic of the event. Example: What brings you to the conference?
 - A. Knowledge building
 - B. Networking Opportunities
 - C. My boss made me
- **Prepare the questions** – Works well for panel presentations. Ask attendees to group together & identify two or three questions that panelists should address. If the panelists don’t address the items, the attendees will have them ready to go.

What are your favorite icebreakers?

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Recap

- Why are we breaking ice?
- What ice are we breaking?
- Who are we breaking ice for?
- How will we break the ice?

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Questions?

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