

# Inspire! Ice Breakers & Openers



## Activity: Name Tag!

### Overview

"Name Tag!" uses repetition and movement to help people learn each other's names. A volunteer races around the inside of the circle trying to give "ten" (i.e., two "low fives") to the person whose name is called out by another member of the group. If the person inside the circle successfully reaches the individual and gives them a "low ten" before he or she can call out another person's name, the players trade positions..

### Props

- None.

### Instructions

- The group first forms a loose circle, standing with hands out and palms-up.
- Go around the circle and ask each person to say his or her name loudly.
- Ask for a volunteer to begin in the center of the circle, otherwise known as the hot-spot.
- The center person is trying to get out of the hot-spot while the rest of the team is playing a version of keep-away using each other's names.
- Play begins when one person shouts the name of someone else standing in the circle.
- The person in the hot-spot has to locate the named person and give him or her a "low ten" before that named person can shout someone else's name.
- At no time may palms be pulled out of the way of the tag.
- Names bounce from person to person until the center person successfully lands his or her hands down on the correct outstretched palms before another name is called. Participants then switch places and start again.

- Make sure to always give the center-person an "out" if he or she is struggling.
- Encourage participants to provide subtle head-nods or hints to help the center person find the named player and to keep play moving.

### Safety

It is important that the center person is nice when giving low tens. Left unchecked, the simple task of giving "ten" has the potential to become a rough or harsh slap. Also, be aware of those participants who are feeling awkward because they are not sure of everyone's names.

### Variations

You can do many things to change play, such as making the circle bigger or smaller (and easier). Or, with groups that may know each other, mix it up by using last or middle names. Others have played this game after "NICK-NAME NUGGET," the alliteration names game with great success.