

ACTIVITY 11

Birthday Line-Up

Purpose: Create a positive group culture where advisees feel and are known. Initiate the conversation about rituals and what the group would like to celebrate, and how, over the course of the year.

APPROXIMATE TIME:

20 minutes

MATERIALS: NONE**ADVISOR NOTES:****1. Set Parameters for Celebrating Birthdays**

In this activity, it is up to the advisor to establish the parameters for upcoming birthday celebrations. It is important that whatever ritual you establish, it is inclusive of every advisee in the group regardless of socioeconomic status, the distance they live from school and their mode of transportation, and allergies. Challenge your advisees to come up with ways to celebrate birthdays that do not involve anyone—including you—having to bake or spend money.

PROCEDURE:**1. Set Up, Explain, and Play “Birthday Line-Up”**

- After clearing a space in the center of the room, ask advisees to stand together there. Tell them that without talking, making noise, or writing, they need to line up by birthday month and day.
- After the group is in a line, have each advisee say their name and then the month and day they were born.

2. Debrief “Birthday Line-Up”

Sit in a circle and choose from the following questions to debrief the activity:

- Were you successful in lining up according to your birthday days and months? What factors contributed to your success? If you were not successful and made some mistakes, what factors may have gotten in the way of your success?
- How did the group decide on a strategy to line up? Was everyone involved in the decision-making process, or were decisions about strategy made by a few people? How did you feel during this time?
- What observations did you make about how the group worked together? What are you proud of in terms of group collaboration and cooperation? What might you have done as individuals and as a group to improve collaboration and cooperation?

3. Discuss How to Celebrate Birthdays

- Involve advisees in the process of deciding how they want to acknowledge and celebrate birthdays this year. Don't forget to include summer birthdays or birthdays that fall during school vacation weeks. Challenge the group to get creative and come up with ideas that don't involve spending money!
- Time allowing, start a discussion about other rituals they might want to put in place this year, such as for before holidays, before or after exams or report cards, or to cheer on advisees before big games, performances, or life events.