

Autograph Bingo Game

Summary: Autograph Bingo is an icebreaker that asks people to mingle and find people that match interesting facts listed on a bingo card. The game is useful in that it causes players to discover interesting and humorous facts about each other.

Ages: 12 and up.

Recommended # of people: Larger groups of 24+ people.

Messiness Factor: No problem.

Materials required: bingo cards prepared in advance and writing utensils (group leaders will need to prepare beforehand by talking with various students/mentors in prior meetings in order to jot down interesting facts about members of your group, you may already know some).

Recommended Setting: Indoors.

Autograph Bingo (icebreaker)

Autograph Bingo is a fun way to help both new acquaintances and old friends discover facts about each other. The goal of this icebreaker game is to mingle and obtain the signatures of people who have the facts listed on their bingo card. Just as regular bingo rules, once a player successfully obtains a full row (5 in a row) on his or her Bingo sheet, whether obtained horizontally, vertically, or diagonally, he or she shouts "BINGO!"

Setup

Prepare a table with 5 rows and 5 columns (5×5), with interesting facts inside the boxes. These facts can include humorous or bizarre things. For example you can use facts such as:

- Speaks more than two languages
- Enjoys walking in thunderstorms
- Likes anchovies
- Has been to Alaska
- Has gone skydiving before
- Has more than three sisters
- Has gone without a shower for more than three days

Try to be as creative as you can. Like traditional bingo, you can mark the center square as a "Free Space". After you are finished preparing the table, print out enough copies. You are ready to play!

Instructions for How to Play

Pass out pens and the bingo cards to each player. Explain the game along with the following rule: each person you talk to may only sign your sheet once (so that people can interact with as many people as possible). When everyone is ready, say "Go!" and begin the game! Once a player shouts "Bingo!" everyone returns to the center and the person must introduce the people who signed his or her sheet. If desired, you can ask each person to explain their fact.

The Autograph Game is a great way to learn humorous or unique facts about people. Have fun!