

# HAVE YOU EVER

## *AN EXERCISE TO SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT GROUP MEMBERS*

### NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

#### **A minimum of 8 people**

This exercise can be expanded to the degree that participants can stand in a circle and hear someone in the center of the circle. Very large groups can break into smaller groups and play simultaneously in separate circles.

### MATERIALS

For each participant:

Something that can be used to mark a standing spot that is easily seen by others:

- Pieces of paper
- “X”s made of masking tape
- Carpet squares
- Bandannas (but they will get dirty)

### SET UP

The group forms a circle, arm’s length apart. Each participant places or makes a standing spot, such as a carpet square or an “X” made of masking tape, for himself or herself.

### INSTRUCTIONS

The facilitator stands in the middle and gives these instructions:

1. I am going to call out a characteristic I have or an experience I’ve had. If this is also true of you, you must leave your space and find another vacated space on which to stand. The new space must be at least 2 spaces away from yours—you can’t move into the space immediately adjacent yours.
2. We’re going to practice a time of two, and then I’ll remove one of the spaces and the person who can’t find a space will take my place and have to come up with a characteristic or experience of his or hers to use.
3. Be careful when you trade spaces not to slip on the paper, bandanna, or whatever.

**Examples:**

I have broken a bone in my body.

I have broken a bone in someone else's body.

I have spent the whole night in a tent outside.

I am left-handed.

I have been outside the United States.

I have never had a speeding ticket.

I have failed a test.

I have corrected vision.

I do not have all my teeth.

I'm wearing boxers.

**CHECKPOINT**

Make sure that the standing spots are reasonable slip-proof, and caution participants about the slip factor. Carpet squares, for example, can launch themselves on a hard floor if a participant jumps on the square from an angle.