



The success of your Club may depend on how well you can get your membership to connect with each other. When bringing together people who don't know each other or attempting to add new people to an existing group, one of the best ways to encourage a fast connection is to use an Ice Breaker. Clubs will want to first do something with their new board of directors to encourage a collaborative environment, but it is also useful to hold an ice breaker at your first monthly event.

All of these ideas are to just get you started. Please adapt and change to fit your needs!

Smaller Group Ideas:

1. Host a progressive dinner for your new board but divide the board into smaller groups so that there are 5 or so people per group.
  - Give everyone a sheet with about 4 or 5 questions that they will want to discuss with everyone as they progress through the dinner.
  - Have four or five houses/hosts participating in the event who all live fairly close together. Or you could do this as a picnic in the park and have people move from one area to another area, as long as there is some kind of separation.
  - Figure out the groups for each course in advance based on the RSVPs. The goal is to have everyone be in a group at least once with everyone attending as they move through the first three courses. It may be good to have event cards for each individual so they know where to go for each round.
  - Have three rounds (Appetizers, Salads, Mains) where people switch from house to house (or place to place with the host staying put), but constantly changing who is in each group. Each Host will provide the same food, but the groups will constantly change from course to course and house (place) to house (place).
  - Have one place where everyone comes together in the end for dessert. At dessert, put all names into a hat and have each person draw a name. Their mission is to introduce that person to the group. It will encourage people to reach out and meet every person who attends in a low stress environment of a smaller group. Introductions must be at least 80% true!
2. Get to Know You Bingo: You can tailor it to your club or location. People need to move all around the room trying to find someone who has a similar answer to a box on their sheet. The first people to get all the boxes check off will get Bingo and win a prize. Or you can do it for a set amount of time so that people actually talk to each other and don't rush to finish, then put all the competed Bingo Sheets into a hat and draw sheets to present prizes to a few of the people. It really gets everyone chatting and connecting



beyond the people that you already know. It creates such a buzz in the air! <https://themilitaryspouses.com/military-spouse-bingo/>

3. There are several Apps that work with Trivia questions that you can set up on your own. This is a great way to do a “meet your board” event with actual details about people having the attendees guess who the answers coincide with. As always, provide a prize for the person with the most correct answers.
4. It is also a great idea to have mini-ice breakers around the table to get interaction among a smaller group of people. Games like: 2 Truths and a Lie, What book is on your nightstand? Favorite streaming shows and the Platform? Just a different question that you put out at every monthly event to make sure everyone at the table talks to each other.

Some Ideas for larger groups:

1. BINGO: from above: <https://themilitaryspouses.com/military-spouse-bingo/>
2. Scavenger Hunt: Post or Base– Out and About.
  - Divide into groups – try to put people into groups with people they don’t already know. Have people break into twosomes, then pair up 2 sets of groups that don’t know each other.
  - Send everyone out to do or gather the things on their list in order. Give people the lists of clues in different orders so that everyone is not going the same place at the same time.
  - This is a great time to show people where to find certain things, or introduce newcomers to the installation Community Services, the Chapel, the Bowling Alley, etc. You will need to coordinate with these places ahead of time so that are happy to participate. If you have creative people who can write the clues so that deciphering them takes some thought, that is even more fun!
  - Some ideas: get a Golf Tee from the Pro Shop, or a price list from Outdoor Recreation.
  - OR get selfies or the whole group at each location and continue to do this at all sorts of different locations – encourage creative selfies for posting!
  - OR, You can also just give these places some kind of token that they give each group as they come in so that there is no expense.



- OR a fun twist is to have a letter on a card that each group receives from a preset person when they show up at the clue location, so that when they get back, they can have some kind of saying to spell out (like a giant wordle)!
  - Then you can take a picture of the saying for your marketing when they get it right. If everyone meets back at the starting location, they can share what they picked up along the way.
3. BUNCO: Have your first event be Bunco because it is an easy game that gets people up and moving around to different tables.
  4. Speed Friending: Set up long skinny tables with chairs on each side. Have people sit facing each other with conversational prompt listed for each round. Set a timer for about 3 minutes and get people to talk to the person across from them. When the time is up, have one side of the table move down to the next seat and start over again with a new conversational prompt. Continue with this process for about 30 minutes. You will never get to talk to everyone because you will not talk to the people on the same side of the table as you, but it will get you to meet a number of people from the other side!
  5. Corners: Everyone starts out by standing in the middle of the room.
    - Then announce everyone who came from an OCONUS location prior to this move, go to the left side of the room and those from CONUS go to the Right Side. Talk to someone about where they came from and see if you can find someone from the same place.
    - Then have another question, like, number of years married to their spouse: one corner, less than 5 years, another corner from 5 – 10, another corner from 11 – 15 and the fourth corner is over 16 years. Find someone in the corner with the same number of years.
    - Then same idea, but ask about children – no children, children from infant to 5 years, 6 years to 10 years old, over 10 years old. Those that span more than the listed time frames head to the middle.
    - Continue with questions like this because it will connect people in similar circumstances, and they might just make a new friend.
- 6 to 10 questions are probably enough to get people moving and talking! It will be helpful if you have the question on a large screen, and maybe facilitators in each corner with a poster showing the answers for people to visually see which corner to head towards.
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