

# ALBERTA DIVERSITY CHALLENGE – Part 3 PATHFINDERS / SENIOR BRANCHES



## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

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Everyone is different. While we all come from a family, a community or country, there are still things that make us different from those around us. We are each special and unique. The three-year Diversity Challenge allows us to discover the diversity within our families, Guiding units, community, our world and ourselves. Complete just one year of the challenge or all three parts to discover the diversity that makes us unique. Part 1 and Part 2 are already available on the Albert Girl Guides website (<http://www.albertagirlguides.com/06challenges.html>)

### Part A – Do both of the following activities

1. What is the history of your town, city or community? Where did the people come from when your area was first developed? Where do community members come from today?
2. What does it mean to be a “minority”? Is there a minority group within your community?

### Part B – Do any 4 of the following 7 activities

#### Identity (from <http://www.eycb.coe.int/edupack/08.html>)

Who are you? Many different things make up who we are. Some things people can see and other things are hidden. What are the 5 things that you feel make up your identity? This could include where you live, what you do, your religion or your cultural group. Fill in and colour the attached worksheet. Compare your sheet with others in your unit. What are the things you have in common? The differences?

#### Are you a Diversity Agent?

Hand-out the attached work sheet. Get each member to work on the sheet individually first, checking the square that applies best to them. Come back as a group to discuss:

1. Were there questions that were hard to respond to? Which ones and why?
2. What makes it difficult to do the things that are rarely do?
3. What other behaviours would you add to the list?
4. What behaviours do you consider important to creating an accepting society?
5. What would help you to achieve this?

## **In the News**

At times, the media does not always represent society's diverse groups and organizations equally. Challenge the Pathfinders/Senior Branches to take part in a diversity audit. For one week, ask them to watch how minority groups are represented in the media. Encourage them to clip related newspaper articles. Was there equal representation? Was there a group that was represented more than other groups? When minorities were represented in the media, what was it regarding?

## **Standing By**

Read the following quote: *"The world is too dangerous to live in - not because of the people who do evil, but because of the people who stand by and let them."* Albert Einstein. Ask, have they witnessed a situation were they stood by? What was it? How did this make them feel? If they were able to do things again, would they change how they responded? Why or why not?

## **Cool or Uncool**

Divide the members into two groups. Give each group a large sheet of paper, pencils and crayons. Ask one group to draw a picture of a "cool" person and one group to draw a picture of an "uncool" person. Hang up the finished pictures. Discuss, what makes someone cool? Uncool? Which do you consider yourself? What is the coolest thing you have done? The uncoolest? Do we want to be cool? Why? Next, move the discussion into uniqueness and what makes each person unique.

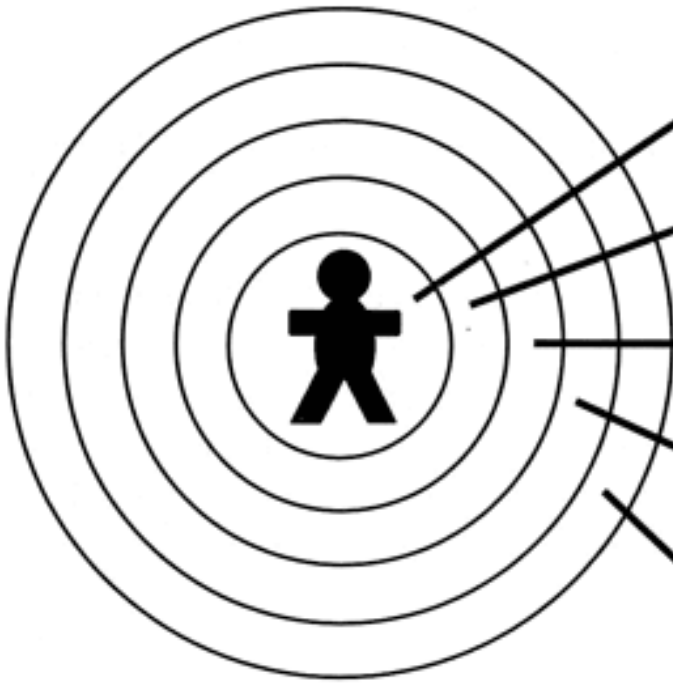
## **M&M's** (from <http://www.multiculturalcenter.org/exercises/MM.pdf>)

Pass around a bag of M&M's to each member. Have them separate the M&M's into groups by colour. Designate one colour for each aspect of individuality, (i.e red=name, yellow=birth place, green=cultural background). Go around the room and have each member tell information related to the colour of M&M being discussed. What is it about M&M's that make them similar (all chocolate covered candies)? What makes them different (all different colours)? How does this apply to people? What makes us different? Similar?

## **Chatter** (from <http://www.peacecorps.gov/wvs/educators/lessonplans/lesson.cfm?lpid=278>)

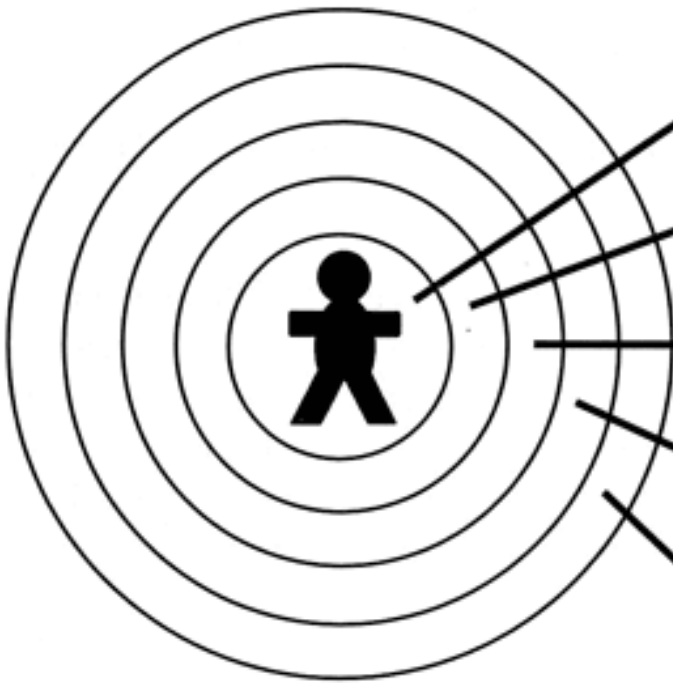
Break the members into groups. Explain that you hosting a party with guests attending from many different backgrounds. Shuffle and hand out a Chatter sheet to each group. Ask them to read to themselves what their sheet says and then put it away so others can not see it. The members should act at the party based on the information on the sheet they received. Blow a whistle to start the party (role-play). After a set period of time, stop the action. Tell the members that there are 12 different etiquette sheets and that it is possible for more than one person in each group to have the same sheet. Ask the members to think back silently about their conversations and to guess what instructions each player had on his or her sheet. After a brief pause, ask the participants to take turns telling their guesses to the rest of the groups. What was this exercise like? What did it teach you about others customs?

MY IDENTITY



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- 2 .....  
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- 3 .....  
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- 4 .....  
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- 5 .....  
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MY IDENTITY



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## HOW MUCH OF A DIVERSITY CHANGE AGENT ARE YOU?

Directions: Respond to the following statements by checking the appropriate column.

	Usually	Sometimes	Rarely
1. I challenge stereotypic comments and assumptions.			
2. I engage friends in discussions about diversity.			
3. I spend time (e.g., lunch, breaks) with people who are different from me.			
4. I bring diversity concerns to the attention of my friends, educators or family members.			
5. I let people know that ethnic, gender, racial, religious, etc., jokes are off limits.			
6. I challenge/question comments and complaints about other groups when I feel it is not right.			
7. I listen to others' concerns with an open mind and questioning attitude.			
8. I suggest resolution strategies when there are diversity related conflicts.			
9. I explain the advantages for effectively dealing with diversity.			
10. I ask for suggestions about ways to make the school/community environment more inclusive.			
11. I speak up and educate when I hear a derogatory comment, slur, or joke.			
12. I seek out people to talk with whose views are different from mine.			
13. I challenge my own assumptions and stereotypic thoughts.			
14.			
15.			

(adjusted from <http://www.gardenswartzrowe.com/diversity.doc>)

## Chatter – Workshop Sheets

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It is impolite to shout, so talk softly. Whisper. Even if people cannot hear you, do not raise your voice.  
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It is impolite to talk to more than one person at the same time. Always talk to a single person standing near you so that you can have a private conversation. Do not address your remarks to the group as a whole.  
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It is important to get others' attention before you speak, so hold your hand above your head and snap your fingers before you make a statement or ask a question. That's the polite way to get everyone's attention.  
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It is impolite to crowd people, so maintain your distance. Stand away so that there is at least an arm's length between you and the nearest person. If anyone gets too close to you, back off until you have achieved the required distance.  
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It is friendly to share your thoughts and feelings without any inhibition, so make several self-disclosure statements. Describe your intimate feelings about different subjects. Ask personal questions of the other members of the group.  
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It is impolite to stare at people, so avoid eye contact. Look at the floor or the speaker's shoes. Do not look at the speaker's face.  
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It is polite and reassuring to reach out and touch someone. Touch people on the arm or the shoulder when you speak to them.  
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It is important to show your enthusiasm, so jump in before other speakers have finished their sentences and add your ideas. Remember, it is rude to hold back your thoughts.  
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It is impolite to speak impulsively. Whenever somebody asks you a question, silently count to seven before you give an answer.  
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It is impolite to be aloof from others. Stand close to others until you nearly touch them. If someone backs off, keep moving closer.  
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Be yourself! Behave as you would normally behave at an informal party.  
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