

ALBERTA DIVERSITY CHALLENGE – Part 3 GUIDES



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

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 – Discuss these questions as a group:

1. When did you first hear the expression "multicultural society"? What does it mean to you?
2. What does discrimination mean? Have you experienced it?
3. What does xenophobia mean?
4. What does poverty mean to you? Are there people living in poverty in your community?
5. What does it mean to be Canadian? What does Canada mean to people from other countries?

Part B – Do any 5 of the following 8 activities

My Potato

Bring enough potatoes (or lemons/apples etc) for each Guide to the meeting. Talk about what makes individuals unique. Give each Guide a potato. Get them to study their potato, give the potato a name and think up a little story about it. Have each Guide share the "history" of their individual potatoes. Once this is complete, take each potato back and mix them up. Place all the potatoes in the center of the room. Ask each guide to go and identify and claim "their" potato. Did each Guide find their potato? Why or why not? How are the potatoes similar to people? In what ways are people different?

Select Few

It is not unusual for people to be given special access/attention based solely on their appearance. This activity is the starting point to a discussion. At some point in the meeting, give 4 or 5 Guiders a sticker to place on their forehead. Tell them they can do whatever they want for the rest of the meeting (must stay in the building) and then continue on with the preplanned activity for the rest of the group. This often leaves the remainder of the group confused and frustrated. After a set time period, bring the "chosen" Guiders back into the meeting. What did it feel like to be given special treatment? To not be chosen? Was it fair? Who might deal with this type of situation on a daily bases?

Where do Your Clothes come from?

Prior to the meeting, have each Guide go through their personal closet and write down where their clothes are manufactured. Where most items made in Canada? Outside of Canada? Have each Guide select one item and research that country further, bringing the garment and information to the next Guide meeting. Have each Guider share their research with the group.

Your Holiday

Each culture has days of the year that are significant to them. Start the discussion around days the Guiders are familiar with and move into holidays that some but not all may know (depending on their background). Discuss what it is that makes a holiday special (the food, when it happens, what is being celebrated, why) and brainstorm their perfect holiday. Come up with ideas the group can agree on and then give the holiday a name. If possible, celebrate the holiday the following week inviting guests to join you.

Stereotypes

At times, we base our opinion of someone on what we think instead of what we know. This activity gets the Guides to brainstorm what they think about different people. On chart paper write the following: babies, preschool kids, teenagers, parents, senior citizens. Using one category at a time, have the Guides say the first thing that comes to mind for the selected type of person. Do the same for the remaining categories. After the activity is complete, have a discussion – do all people fall in the stereotypes listed? Do you know people just like this? Not at all? How does a stereotype impact people? Positive? Negative?

Rights

What rights do you have living in Canada? Rights as a youth living in Canada? Have these rights always been in place. Break the unit into small groups and have each group find out information about different Human Rights. Compare and contrast this with the rights youth the same age in another country might have.

Unfair Treatment

Has there been a time when you have been treated unfairly or judged based on your age, skin colour, gender, where you live, your family or even the clothes you were wearing? How did you feel? Why do you think someone treated or thought about you this way? How do you think you should have been treated? Have you done this to others?

What is?

Divide the Guides into smaller groups. Give each group one word – i.e stereotype, discrimination, racism, assumptions etc. Have each group think about the definition of their word. Once they have an understanding of the word, have each group do a role-play/skit to demonstrate the word. Have each group perform the skit for the entire group allowing for discussion after the performance.