

so what is this **activity**?

This year, the NSP Working Group decided more than just a project is needed to convey the message of **building bridges**. In order to build connection with a community of people, one first needs to understand the dynamic between themselves and the community they are working with. Every chapter will complete the same activity in order to unite our chapters. You may customize the activity to make it fit your chapter's needs and resources, but please keep it to the same general structure

The activity can be done in any variety of settings, and can be whenever works best for your chapter as long as it is in the month of February. Examples of settings for your activity are:

- mini camps
- chapter meetings
- parties/ get-togethers
- standalone activities



- We suggest a long debrief, with plenty of time to reflect on participants relationships with the group you are doing your NSP with
- This is a great opportunity to advertise the service project in March!

building bridges activity

Facilitators: NSPL and JB board

Time and place: month of February, 1.5-2 hours

Materials: large paper, markers

ASK Model

Attitudes: Willingness to...

- Work with others and listen to others ideas
- Have an open mind when considering other's point of view

Skills: Ability to...

- Cooperate with others to ultimately achieve a goal
- Compromise to meet the goals of all parties
- Accomplish one problem with multiple solutions

Knowledge: Understanding of...

- The differing needs of communities and why those differences exist
- Why there is no "right" way to do things

building bridges activity

1) Split the participants into four groups: the board of directors of the factory, the workers union, the environmental groups, and the city council. The city council should be the smallest group, with no more than four or five members. Have a JB member present in each group to participate and answer any questions.

2) Read this statement:

A coal factory in your small town of NSPville has been shut down due to protests after a worker recently died on the job. The worker had complained of asthma due to the air conditions in the coal plant. The worker also was working 70+ hours a week, something that was not uncommon for the workers of the factory. This factory provides jobs to 40% of people in NSPville and there are minimal options for the people to work in other fields. However, the factory also emits 40% of the town's entire carbon output. The workers union is striking to protest the unsafe working conditions. Environmental groups are also gathering outside the factory to protest the carbon emissions. The city council has called a meeting to mediate between the three groups in order to find a solution. The goal of the meeting is to make a list of conditions for the operation of the factory that satisfy all parties. The city council will make the final decision on the conditions.

building bridges activity

3) Discuss for 20 minutes within each group about their demands for the city council regarding the conditions for the factory to reopen.

4) Each group will appoint a representative and have 3 minutes to present their proposals to all the participants.

5) Have an open discussion between all four groups on what the combined conditions should be. The city council will mediate and try to compromise between them. The city council will make a list on a large piece of paper of the new conditions, trying to keep in mind the positions of each group.

- Encourage each group to argue for why they want their specific conditions, and question other groups



building bridges debrief

Reflect:

- What happened during the activity?
- How did your perspective influence the solution of the City Council?
- Did your group disagree with others?
- How did you solve that issue?
- Was compromising with the other groups valuable when coming up with a solution?

Generalize:

- Why is compromising important in the world of coming up with solutions not everyone will be happy with?
- Why is being open-minded important when trying to achieve a goal that might have people disagree with each other?
- Are there any circumstances where compromising is not the answer and will not lead to an effective solution?

Apply:

- Why is it important to understand the perspectives of others and how can you implement this into your daily life?
- In CISV, do you think that we understand and compromise with people that may think differently than us?
- *How can we bridge the gaps in our community by helping others and being open minded? *required*

You do NOT have to ask all of these questions. Choose 2 or 3 based on how the activity went. Feel free to supplement your own as well and include references to your specific service project.