NEW PLANET ACTIVITY

ABSTRACT: Participants will make individual decisions but will then need to work with a group to arrive at decisions as a group. Participants will be challenged to articulate their rationale to a small group, listen to others, and compromise to meet their common goal.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Copies of the worksheet (enclosed) so that each person has one. Copies of the worksheet should also be available for each group to compile their small group decisions.

FACILITATION GUIDE:

- Explain that due to air pollution, the Earth will soon be too hot for people to survive. NASA will send a rocket to a new planet with people that will keep the species from becoming extinct. NASA has a list of prospective pioneers, but only ten of the 30 people on the list will be able to go. Each participant is a member of the NASA team making the final determination of who will go to the new planet. Each team member has ten minutes to decide which ten should go.
- Distribute copy of the new planet worksheet to each person (copies on white paper).
- Next, divide the group into smaller groups of three to four. Give each group a worksheet on colored paper. Each group has fifteen minutes to come up with their list of people for the new planet.
- Ask each group to pick a recorder and a reporter.
- After each group has shared their list with the larger group and has explained their rationale, ask the processing questions.

Processing Questions:

- How did you make your decisions individually?
- How did your group make its decisions?
- What were some challenges? How did you handle conflict? Did you have to compromise?
- Did a leader emerge? What was the leader’s style? How did she/he lead?
- What values influenced your decisions? Where do our values come from?
- What can happen when people with different values get together? (Point out any stereotypes that seemed to influence decisions. Reinforce no judgments in this group.)

SOURCE: ADAPTED FROM CONTRA COSTA HEALTH SERVICES
NEW PLANET ACTIVITY

Due to the extensive pollution, the Earth’s ozone layer is way too thin. Days are getting hotter and hotter. In a couple of days, the Earth is going to be too hot for humans to survive. NASA has a rocket that will send people to a new planet so that they can ensure human beings will not become extinct...the only problem is, the rocket can only take ten people!

Which ten people should be on the rocket to the new planet?

- 35 year old female, has 3 children, graphic artist
- 12 year old male, straight A student, wants to be a police officer
- 59 year old male, computer technician
- 18 year old male, high school drop out, does not have a job
- 24 year old female, pregnant and expecting twins, teacher
- 25 year old female, fashion model
- 15 year old female, pregnant, high school student
- 16 year old male, boyfriend of #7, baby’s father
- 30 year old male, garbage collector, has a wife.
- 21 year old male, photographer, single
- 70 year old male, retired lawyer
- 50 year old female, doctor, cannot have children
- 45 year old male, investment banker, very wealthy
- 40 year old male, dentist
- 22 year old female, college student, studying the environment
- 30 year old male, famous actor, known to use drugs
- 14 year old female, soccer player, has part-time job as cashier
- 38 year old male, pilot and astronaut, has the flu
- 29 year old female, botanist (studies plants/trees)
- 49 year old male, governor of California
- 27 year old male, reporter for the local newspaper
- 30 year old female, cook, owns her own restaurant
- 10 year old male, farmer
- 60 year old female, astronomer
- 52 year old male, fisherman
- 49 year old female, aircraft repairwoman
- 22 year old female, singer, dancer, actress, smoker
- 28 year old male, professional basketball player
- 33 year old male, carpenter, has the chicken pox
- 28 year old female, psychologist, counselor, has fear of flying

Adapted from Contra Costa Health Services' New Planet Activity at www.cchealth.org/groups/tobacco_project/pdf/activities.pdf