

2017

# MUSE: Getting to Know the Generations Youth & Elder Scavenger Hunt

University of Maine Center on Aging

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## Repository Citation

University of Maine Center on Aging, "MUSE: Getting to Know the Generations Youth & Elder Scavenger Hunt" (2017). *Maine Center on Aging Education and Training*. 10.

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## MUSE

### **Getting to Know the Generations Youth & Elder Scavenger Hunt**

**Purpose:** To encourage communication and relationship building between elders and youth prior, during and following MUSE events.

**Basic Premise & Goal:** Youth and elders that have structured activities that facilitate conversation between the two parties will have a greater chance of bridging the generation gap through relationship building than without a structured activity. A scavenger hunt will provide a premeditated means of approaching one another therefore leaving little room for distance and shyness. This activity also maintains an aspect of playfulness that creates a common ground between people at very different stages in their life.

**Process:** Upon arrival, prior to the musical portion of the MUSE event, each participant, both elders and youth, will be handed a list of information to be gathered during this scavenger hunt activity. If assistance is needed for either the youth or the elder, the scavenger hunt may be approached in pairs. There is a different list of information gathered by youth and that gathered by elders. This will encourage both parties to approach one another with questions, creating the basis of conversation that allows both parties to share. In some cases, this sharing of information will lead to conversations and eventually build a relational bond that the musical portion of the MUSE event will foster even further. Following the event, youth and elders should be encouraged by their group facilitators (teachers, activity director, facility staff persons, etc...) to continue conversing and inquiring about each other's experience during the performance. This may include questions about one's favorite instrument, musical piece and composer.

## MUSE

(Music *Uniting* Students & Elders)

### Scavenger Hunt Questions for Youth to ask Elders

Instructions: follow the instructions marked 1), 2), 3), etc... on this page and write down the responses you get from the elders that you approach. When you are finished, return to your school group and share your responses with your peers.

- 1) Find an elder that was born in the 1920's.
  - a. Ask them what was happening in the world when they were your age
  - b. Ask them where and when they were born
- 2) Find an elder with four children
  - a. Ask them what their favorite hobby is.
  - b. Share with them your favorite hobby.
- 3) Find an elder with eye glasses
  - a. Ask them what their favorite book is
  - b. Share with them the title of the book that you last read, or had read to you.
- 4) Find an elder wearing red.
  - a. Ask them who their favorite actor is
  - b. Share with them the name of your favorite actor
- 5) Find an elder wearing green
  - a. Ask them where they were born
  - b. Share with them where you were born.

## MUSE

(Music Uniting Students & Elders)

### Scavenger Hunt Questions for Elders to Ask Youth

Instructions: follow the instructions marked 1), 2), 3), etc...on this page and write down the responses you get from the youth that you approach. When you are finished, share some of your responses with your peers.

- 1) Find a youth wearing blue
  - a. Ask them if they have any brothers and sisters. If so, what are their names?
  - b. If you have brothers and sisters, share with them their names.
- 2) Find a girl with her ears pierced
  - a. Ask them when she got them pierced.
  - b. If you have your ears pierced, share with them your story of when you got them pierced. How old were you? What was it like?
- 3) Find a boy or a girl that likes basketball
  - a. Share with him or her, your favorite sport.
  - b. Is the sport any different today than it was when you were their age? If so, share with them how it was different.
- 4) Find a youth who plays the violin
  - a. Share with him or her your favorite instrument
  - b. If you play an instrument or used to play an instrument, share with the youth the story of how you started to play.
- 5) Find a youth who likes to sing
  - a. Ask them what their favorite song is
  - b. Share with them your favorite song.