

**Learning Objective:** To foster cohesiveness through the development of group identity

**Skill:** Social interaction

Tell the group, "Even though some of you are boys and some are girls, and even though you have different backgrounds, you still have things in common with each other."

Explain that:

*All groups are based on things the members have in common, like shared interests. For example, there are clubs whose members all plant gardens or collect trading cards. There are community service groups that were formed because all the members wanted to help other people. Even though these groups are made up of many different kinds of people, each person has at least one thing in common with everyone else in the group.*

*These common interests are the basis for your group's identity. When a group has an identity, you have a feeling of importance and belonging. Just like having good feelings about yourself, you can have good feelings about your group. These feelings can make you proud and happy to be part of your group.*

*Groups have different ways of expressing their identity. These include: the name of the group, a uniform or something that every group member wears, a symbol that represents the group, or even a secret handshake!*

Divide the group into pairs, and ask each pair to make up a simple, easy-to-remember handshake or other gesture for group members to use when they meet. Each pair should present their idea to the group, and then the group can vote on the one they like best.