

The Farthest Place

This activity is fabulous for Reno ICO trips and always well received. Actually, it works really well for any group that is from the same place. If your group is not from Reno, just substitute your home location for Reno in the facilitation guide.

Facilitation Guide:

1. Put people in pairs.
2. Instruct them to share with each other the farthest place from Reno that they have ever been to.
3. Then get their attention.
4. Now have them discuss their travels to find a place that they have both been to, as far from Reno as they can figure out.
5. Get their attention again, and share out.

Many times on ICO trips students share that this trip is the farthest they have been from home... ICO is doing the right thing to get youth out into the world and discover the magic of the outdoors. Also, it makes step 4, above, very easy!

I learned this activity many years ago, experiencing it in an auditorium of 800 people. Melissa Schlinger, Vice President of the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) built her entire keynote to the Anchorage Public Schools around this activity. She connected the conversation, thinking processes, and the pair experience to all five of the CASEL social and emotional learning competencies. Very cool. - Rob Schamberg

Here is the "Farthest Place" slide that is used in the Reno ICO Outdoor Leadership Training:

Connecting With Your Partner



Find your partner from this morning and...

- Meet and Greet.
- Share the farthest place from Reno you have ever traveled.
- Discuss travels until you discover a place you have both been to, as far from Reno as possible.
- Compare your experiences in that place.

