

## Cut the Deck



**Type of Initiative:** Splitting the Group Up/Group Management

**Group Size:** 10-52 participants

**Playing the Game:** There are several ways to divide your groups with a deck of cards. This could be introduced at any time during your program. Many times when you work with a larger group of people, there are mini-cliques already formed. Here are some creative ways to encourage your participants to meet others and get to know more about those they are not as close with. And let's face it, there are some people you just don't want to have in the same group! Here are some creative ways to split up the group using a deck of cards.



### 1. Odds and Evens

- Using the entire deck: 52 cards, 28 odds, 24 evens (Aces = 1, Jacks = 11, Queens = 12, Kings = 13)
- Take out the Royalty cards: 40 cards, 20 odds, 20 evens (Aces = 1)
- Each suit: 13 cards, 7 odds, 6 evens
- Two suits: 26 cards, 14 odds, 12 evens
- Three suits: 39 cards, 21 odds, 18 evens
- Each suit without royalty cards: 10 cards, 5 odds, 5 evens

### 2. Color of the Cards

- Full deck: 52 cards, 26 black cards, 26 red cards
- Hearts: 13 red cards
- Spades: 13 black cards
- Diamonds: 13 red cards
- Clubs: 13 black cards

### 3. Suit of the Cards

- Full deck: 52 cards, 4 suits (hearts, spades, diamonds, and clubs) 13 per group
- Two suits: 26 cards, 13 per group

4. Number or face value of the Cards

- Full deck: 52 cards, groups of 4 (four 9's, four Jacks)
- Three suits: 39 cards, groups of 3 (three 7's, three Aces)
- Two suits: 26 cards, pairs (two 3's, two Queens)

5. Pairs based on the like color and rank (use this one only if everyone will end up with a partner)

- Full deck: 52 cards, 26 pairs of people (2 of diamonds and 2 of hearts)

Facilitator Notes:



 **A Little History**

*The deck of cards is sometimes likened to an almanac. The 52 cards remind us that there are 52 weeks in a year; 12 face cards suggest the 12 months of the year. Four suits suggest the four seasons of the year. And if we add up all the spots in a deck of cards—one for Ace, two for a two, three for a three, and so on up to 11 for a Jack, 12 for a Queen, and 13 for a King, and one more for a Joker—then we get the total of 365, the number of days in a year.*



-people smart, body smart