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MAKE SPARKS FLY

Connect with People Who Share Your Sparks!

Find kindred spark spirits: Right now you are surrounded by people who have interests and talents, just like you. Sometimes we go through an entire school year and never know the names of the people who sit around us—not to mention the things that matter to them. But it is important to know the people around us because when we connect with others who share our sparks, we create more opportunities to develop and fuel our own sparks. Take time to connect with the people who surround you today. Use the “Sparks Bingo” game sheet below to find out more about the people you routinely see. Find out who they are and what sparks you have in common.

Discover common sparks: When you are with people who share your sparks, you can learn from each other and find ways to offer support. Explore USA TODAY to find someone who has written about one of your sparks. Write a letter or an e-mail to the author of the article, sharing your spark and how you connected with the story. Suggest how you can work together to develop and fuel your kindred spark. If the reporter’s email address isn’t in the newspaper, try searching www.USATODAY.com to find the reporter email address or to see if the reporter has a blog you can contribute to. (Use the questions below as a guide for writing your letter.)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Fill in the blank boxes on the game sheet with your interests, talents, strengths and goals. Change/add to some of the other boxes too.
2. Take time to meet people. Introduce yourself. Look them in the eyes and shake their hands. (No need to rush. This is not a race.)
3. When you share your “Sparks Bingo” game sheet with other people, invite them to sign their names in a box that is true for them. Ask questions and find out details about the box they sign.

Who is the author of the article I chose?

How does my spark connect with the article?

How can I fuel my spark by connecting with the author of the article? _____

Connect through spark networking: We have all heard the buzz about “social networking.” This is when people make online connections for professional and personal reasons. So, why not start “spark networking?” Go to at15.com and see why other young people are choosing to connect. Click on “About @15” and watch the video about young people who want to connect and make a difference in the world. Next, click on “Register Now and Create a Profile.” Create your profile and share your sparks. Explore other profiles and connect with young people across the country who have similar passions. Communicate and connect with others to develop and fuel your sparks!

Has a similar life goal as me	Volunteers in the local community	Plays an instrument	
Spends a lot of time with family	Involved in student government		Has artistic or creative abilities
Participates in a school club or group		Plays a sport	Shares a passion for a similar issue as me
	Has the same favorite school class	Speaks another language	Has a role model

