



our private events are now online!

private event program overview



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private event program overview

About

Skip The Small Talk is the award-winning event that builds community and helps people feel closer to each other, as featured in *Forbes*, *the Boston Globe*, and *American Inno*.

Our private event offerings are now online!

Previous clients include: Harvard University, the Boston Public Market, ColorStack, Combined Jewish Philanthropies, and JLL.

What We Do

- College orientations
- Events to connect with colleagues who are working remotely
- Team-building events
- Community-building events
- Event series for bolstering mental health and reducing loneliness for high school, college, and beyond
- Weddings, Bar Mitzvahs, etc.
- Anything where you'd like for people to get to know each other in a meaningful way!



Event Structure

- Length: 1-2 hours long, or flexible to your needs
- A brief opening of the event promotes compassion for self and others, mindfulness, openness with others, and psychological safety, all of which are research-backed ways to increase satisfaction with interpersonal interactions
- We facilitate conversations in Zoom breakout rooms, 8+ minutes each, using question prompts designed based in psychology research to help people feel closer to each other, increase psychological resilience, and promote mental health; works well for groups meeting for the first time as well as groups who have known each other for years
- We conduct an anonymous poll after the first conversation where we consistently find that people tend to be content with how much their partner shares or even wish their partner had shared more; these findings encourage more openness and closeness throughout the remainder of the event
- If guests don't already know each other, they are encouraged to give out their contact information if desired as opposed to asking other guests for theirs in order to make the process more comfortable and in order to improve chances of connecting outside of the event
- A short debriefing at the end allows guests to share what they're taking away from the event
- Most elements of the event are customizable; if anything here does not feel like it applies to your group, let's talk and see if we can create something that's a better fit!



Question Prompts

- Question prompts are tailored to your group
- Our first question is a variation on the question “how are you doing” that invites guests to share their current mental state to allow for more mindfulness and engagement throughout the event
- A list of question prompts can be provided in advance if desired; clients are always invited to select or veto questions in accordance with their group's cultural norms
- Prompts are designed based in psychology research to promote feelings of connection with a strengths-based focus, e.g.:
 - If you could go back in time to meet yourself when you were 10 years old and could give them one piece of advice, what would it be?
 - What are some things about you that normally take a long time for people to learn or fully understand?
 - What's something you're proud of that you don't usually get to share with people?



feedback

We collect anonymous feedback from our event guests, and here's what people have been saying about our online events...

Out of 69 anonymous respondents:

100% said they would recommend this event

97.1% said they would attend another one

94.2% said they met someone they intend to hang out with outside of the event

let's talk!

Please reach out to Ashley Kirsner at ashley@skipthesmalltalk.org with any questions or to schedule an informational phone call.

Quotes About Our Online Events

"This event was amazing!!! It really helped me feel connected to other students — the two hours flew by! This was, by far, my very favorite part of orientation and I hope that you can do another one!!!"

"One of my biggest concerns has been whether I will feel connected to a community with everything being remote. This event showed me that connection is very possible and that I am not alone in wanting it."

"Very well put together! I was hesitant to jump in without knowing people, but this format and the questions were perfect in addressing that fear. I would love to do this again, virtually and in-person once that's an option again!"

"I LOVED this event!!! So inspiring, so many connections made, I'm so happy with the event! 10000/10 recommend"

"PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE do more of these events. It was incredible and really energised me about the year ahead. Absolutely loved it."

"I am really happy to have attended - I met a few individuals with similar challenges/identity markers, which reassures me about our ability to bond and still feel close this year!"

"Well organized and executed! Meaningful questions that sparked conversation and also allowed for freeflow discussion as desired. The experience was beyond my expectations in terms of connecting with people and enabling starting points from which to grow relationships. Extremely well facilitated by Ashley!"

pricing for virtual events

\$1500 per event up to 100 participants. Please inquire directly for options with groups over this size.