



Students will create a mascot, crest, or logo for the type of people they want to bring into their lives.



One piece of cardstock or blank paper per student; Pencils or pens; Markers, colored pencils, and/or crayons.

Total Prep Time: 5 mins.



As this is the first Monday of the month, please consider sharing the Monthly Kick-Off activity, and if appropriate, video at www.everymondaymatters.org.

4 C's	SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING	SERVICE LEARNING
● Critical thinking	● Self-awareness	● Integrated learning
● Communication	● Self-management	● High quality service
● Collaboration	● Social-awareness	● Collaboration
● Creativity	● Relationship skills	● Student voice
	● Responsible decision-making	● Civic responsibility
		● Reflection
		● Evaluation

GOALS FOR THE WEEK

- Explore how putting effort into relationships with others can change our lives and the quality of our “CONNECTIONS”
- Discover how we can build meaningful, two-sided relationships where we can count on each other
- Find new ways to make others feel special and cared for
- Understand how “FIND YOUR POSSE” is an important part of this month’s theme, “MONDAY GETS CONNECTED”



STUDENT ACTIVITY: **“POSSE MASCOT”**

- 1) SHARE THE NAME OF THIS ACTIVITY WITH STUDENTS: “POSSE MASCOT”**
- 2) ASK 1-3 QUESTIONS FROM THE LIST BELOW TO WARM STUDENTS UP ON THE ACTIVITY’S FOCUS:**

***NOTE:** *Choose questions appropriate to your students’ ages, grades, ability levels, and classroom goals. Students may share their answers in pairs, small groups, or as a large group.*

- **What is a “POSSE”?**
 - Answer: A group of people who have a common interest, occupation, or purpose
- **What does it mean to “FIND YOUR POSSE”?**
- **What are some ways to “FIND YOUR POSSE”?**
 - Or, how do you usually make new friends or meet new people?
- **What are some of the things that you look for in friends and in your friendships?**
- **What are some commonalities that you and your friends—or the people in your “POSSE”—have?**
- **Does the “POSSE” you have make you feel fulfilled and happy?**
 - How so or why not?
- **Do you think it is important to surround yourself with people who share the same qualities and beliefs as you?**
 - Why or why not?
- **What would it be like to have a great group of friends in your life?**
- **What is a “MASCOT”?**
 - Answer: Something that symbolizes a group, organization, or event
- **If you were to make a “MASCOT” that symbolizes your “POSSE,” what would it look like or have on it?**
- **How can “FINDING YOUR POSSE” help you “GET CONNECTED” in meaningful ways?**
- **How can “FINDING YOUR POSSE” help you know that YOU MATTER?**
- **Do you think that if we all started “FINDING OUR POSSES” and “GETTING CONNECTED” more often, we could create a more positive community and environment?**

- 3) SET UP THE “POSSE MASCOT” ACTIVITY:**

- **Explain:**
 - Humans are designed to “CONNECT” with others, but friendships aren’t always easy
 - Making friends and “FINDING OUR POSSES” takes work, especially when we have the desire to bring people into our lives that will build us up and support us throughout life
 - Sometimes we allow ourselves to be surrounded by people who may bring negativity into our lives and this is not healthy for us
 - It is important to think about the type of people we want to be around as we “FIND OUR POSSES”
 - When you “FIND YOUR POSSE” and create a group of people that you can be your complete self with, you can fill your life with love, joy, kindness, and happiness, and spread all of these to others, as well
- **Ask:**
 - Can you think of the type of “POSSE” you would like to surround yourself with?
 - What are the most important values that you hold that you would like your “POSSE” to share with you?
 - What are three words that you would use to describe yourself?

4) START THE “POSSE MASCOT” ACTIVITY:

- **Pass out one piece of cardstock or blank paper to each student, and make pencils or pens and markers, crayons, and/or colored pencils available to all students**
- **Explain:**
 - A “MASCOT” is something that symbolizes a group, organization, or event
 - Today, we are going to each create a “POSSE MASCOT” to represent the type of “POSSE” and people we would like to bring into our lives
 - We’ll include images, symbols, and ideas on our “MASCOTS” that represent what we want in our “POSSE” of people that we can walk through life with
- **Ask students to think about the type of people and “POSSE” that they would like to have in their lives, including specific characteristics**
 - If helpful, provide examples of characteristics to students, such as people who are kind, loyal, fun, funny, honest, and helpful
 - Encourage students to steer away from physical characteristics, and instead focusing on people’s character
 - Students can brainstorm independently, in partners or small groups, or as a large group
- **Once students have brainstormed characteristics of the people that they’d like to bring into their lives, ask them to start designing their “POSSE MASCOT” that represents them and their ideal “POSSE”**
 - If students are having a hard time grasping what a “MASCOT” is, you can explain that it’s similar to a crest or a logo that represents key qualities of their “POSSE”
 - Provide examples as helpful, such as using a lion in a “MASCOT” to represent courage, a heart to represent love, or a tree to represent the search for knowledge or truth
- **Give students up to 10 minutes to create their “POSSE MASCOT”**
- **When time is up, ask for volunteers to share their “POSSE MASCOTS” with the class**
- **Encourage students to take their “MASCOTS” home and hang them somewhere to see as a daily reminder of who and what they want to surround themselves with, and challenge them to seek those people out in their lives**

5) AFTER THE ACTIVITY, ASK 1-3 OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO HELP STUDENTS REFLECT ON WHAT THEY’VE ACCOMPLISHED AND HOW THEY CAN TAKE THIS FORWARD:

***NOTE:** *Choose questions appropriate to your students’ ages, grades, ability levels, and classroom goals. Students may share their answers in pairs, small groups, or as a large group.*

- **What was it like to create your “POSSE MASCOT” today?**
- **What is your favorite “POSSE MASCOT” that you saw today?**
- **Was it easy or difficult to think of the most important qualities you hope to find in your “POSSE”?**
- **What were some of the qualities or characteristics you came up with?**
 - Why are these important to you?
- **Do the people you hang out with already have these characteristics?**
- **Would you like to attract even more people like this into your life?**
 - What are some ways you can do this?
- **Why is it important to “FIND YOUR POSSE”?**
- **How did this activity help you “GET CONNECTED” to others or to what you want in life?**
- **How can “FINDING YOUR POSSE” help you know that YOU MATTER?**
- **How can “FINDING YOUR POSSE” really make a difference in your life?**
 - How can it make a difference in the world around you?

- 6) **THANK STUDENTS FOR “FINDING THEIR POSSE” TODAY THROUGH MAKING A “POSSE MASCOT.” ENCOURAGE THEM TO USE THEIR “MASCOT” AS INSPIRATION AS THEY SEEK TO “GET CONNECTED” WITH OTHERS IN THEIR LIVES IN NEW WAYS.**
- 7) **CHECK IN WITH STUDENTS TO SEE IF THEY HAVE TAKEN ANY NEW STEPS TO “FINDING THEIR POSSE” AND WHAT IT’S BEEN LIKE AS THEY EXPLORE HOW MUCH THEY “MATTER” THROUGH “CONNECTIONS” WITH OTHERS.**
- 8) **CONTINUE EXPLORING HOW TO “FIND YOUR POSSE” BY LEADING ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING EXTENSION IDEAS.**



EXTENSION IDEAS:

DO ONE OR MORE OF THESE EXTENSION IDEAS TO BRING THE LESSON FROM 15 MINUTES TO 30 MINUTES OR MORE.

- 1) **Friendship Bracelets:** Remind students of the importance of “FINDING THEIR POSSE” as they create a good, positive circle of friends around them. Allow students to create friendship bracelets as a class craft activity. Encourage students to give their bracelets to the people in their lives who are meeting their “POSSE” needs and aligning with the qualities that their “MASCOT” represents, including friends they already have or new people that they meet. Allow students to make as many bracelets as they feel they can give out at this time and maybe a few extra to encourage them to look for the positive qualities that they identified today in others.
- 2) **Journaling:** Encourage students to keep a journal of how their “FINDING THEIR POSSE” is changing their daily lives and the way they see themselves and their friendship needs. Have they changed anything about current relationships? Have they met new friends? How does this make them feel?

“ A FRIEND IS ONE OF THE NICEST THINGS YOU CAN HAVE AND ONE OF THE NICEST THINGS YOU CAN BE. ”

- WINNIE THE POOH