

# FAMILY REUNION INSTITUTE'S

## STICKY REUNION SITUATION

### I FEEL LIKE AN OUTSIDER AT MY REUNION

July 2015

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#### The Situation:

I feel like an outsider at my reunion, but want to get to know my family better. What can I do to feel more at ease and comfortable?

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#### The Fix:



**Suzanne  
Vargus Holloman**

We congratulate you that you are willing to attend the family reunion despite the fact that you don't know the family and want to take this opportunity to get to know them better. Be assured that it will be worth it as you will make deeper family connections that will last a lifetime! Please inform the reunion planning team that you aren't well-acquainted with family members. They'll look for opportunities to help. More than likely they'll relay that there will be ice breakers and other activities planned for the family to get to know each other. Let them know you're available to room with a family member that needs a roommate or be a passenger with a family from your area that's driving to the reunion.

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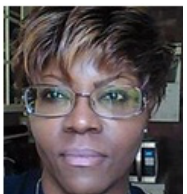
#### The Fix:



**Doug Harris**

- a. Contact a family member you know and ask them to introduce you to others.
  - b. Volunteer to update the family directory and call each one explaining who you are. Be sure to ask each one how they're related to the family and whether they have any family milestones (weddings, deaths, births, graduations, etc.) to share.
  - c. Volunteer to do a family genealogy project and ask for other volunteers to work with you.
  - d. Suggest an ice-breaker game to the reunion planner.
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#### The Fix:



**Sylvia  
Ford-George**

To not know family is not uncommon. There are a number of reasons why folks grow up not knowing their relatives and we commend you on wanting to put in the work. There are three things you can do to get to know your family better.

1. Before the reunion join the planning committee and attend planning meetings. Family members planning the reunion know a lot about the family and can help answer questions about your family tree.
2. During the reunion participate in as many activities as possible. Walk up to family members and introduce yourself. Ask questions about their parents and grandparents to see how you're related. Ask questions about where they live, the work they do, schools attended, activities they enjoy. See what you have in common. Exchange contact information.
3. After the reunion, follow-up with the family members you met. Continue working with the planning committee. Assist work on the family tree by gathering info on relatives your age.

The more time you spend getting to know your relatives, the better you'll get to know them and the more relaxed you'll feel around them.

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