



Voices of the Community The Rye Y Story Project

Interview Tips and Starters

Interviewing someone can seem intimidating. However, an interview is just a conversation that allows you to learn more about the other person. Let your genuine curiosity about the person guide your conversation. Pretend you're at a cocktail party and you've just met someone really interesting. What would you ask him?

Here are some starters:

- **When did you join the Rye Y?**
- **Do you live nearby?**
- **How long have you lived in ___?**
- **What brought you to the Y?**
- **Had you previously belonged to another Y, or a gym?**
- **What were your goals when you first arrived?**
- **What do you like to do at the Y?**
- **What are some other Y classes or programs you've participated in?**
- **What kinds of challenges have you faced as you try keep fit and healthy?**
- **If the person alludes to a family or spouse, dig a little deeper on that. Family membership? What do your family members like to do at the Y?**
- **What's special about the Y for you?**
- **Do you feel like you're achieving your goals here? How so?**
- **What kind of relationships have you formed at the Y?**
- **What have you always wanted to try at the Y, but haven't yet?**

You don't want to sound like you're using a script or reading from this list. You don't have to use every one of these questions; these are just suggestions. Let the conversation flow naturally. It almost always does!

One last tip: the starter phrase "Tell me about..." is always a good, open-ended question.