

WiP THEME: *Ambition*

Here are some ideas for exploring the theme of ambition with your Women inPower chapter:

1. Host a discussion. Some sample questions you can ask your group:

- Do you consider yourself ambitious?
- Do you use the word “ambitious” to describe yourself? If so, why? If not, why not?
- What does the term “ambitious” mean to you? What image does it conjure?
- Are women judged differently for being ambitious? How?
- Do you have a story from your own life?
- Beyond attitudes, are there structural things in place that dissuade women from being ambitious? Can you name specific policies in place where you live/work that stunt women’s ambition?
- How do you define your own ambition? What are one to two goals you have set for yourself that you consider ambitious?

2. Work through an activity together. Map your own ambition.

- Give everyone a piece of paper. Have them make four columns. At the top of the columns, ask them to write one year, then five years, 10 years and 30 years.
- Under each year, encourage everyone to write the most ambitious goal they can set for themselves. What is the most they hope to accomplish in the time frame? For example, “In one year, I will have been promoted to a new title. Within five years, I will be running my own department. Within 10 years, I will be among the top leadership of an organization. In 30 years, I will have ...”
- Encourage everyone to think big about what they hope to accomplish.
- Ask the group to go around and present their goals.
- Take a moment after each to offer encouragement towards reaching those goals. Applaud your fellow chapter members!

3. Invite a speaker to talk about his/her experience. Some ideas for people you can ask:

- A female who works in a stereotypically “male” field.
- A CEO or head of a major organization in your community.
- Ask your chapter for ideas. Pool your connections and identify someone you may already know.

How did it go? Did you find something worked particularly well or not so well? Did you follow the script or make up your own? What did your group learn? Share your experiences in the Women inPower Facebook group so we can all learn from each other.