

WiP THEME: *Collaboration*

Women are known for having strong connect/collaborate skills. How can those skills be balanced with independent thinking and action? Here are some ideas for exploring these questions with your Women inPower chapter:

1. Sample questions for group discussion:

- Does your work style tend more towards being independent or connected to others? What makes it that way?
- Share an example of a time that you worked independently and it worked very well for you.
- Share an example of a time that you collaborated with others and it worked very well for you.
- Talk about a successful outcome that was achieved with the support of others?
- Talk about a time you asked someone for help or support?
- In a professional setting, who do you can ask for advice? How do you find them?

2. Work through an activity together. This activity is very simple but surprisingly challenging and fun. You will need several paper or plastic cups.

- Divide your group into equal teams and give each 25 cups.
- Instruct each team to work together to build the tallest structure they can. It should be free-standing (not leaning against any walls or other support.)
- The team with the tallest structure wins.
- Have everyone talk about whether the exercise was easy or hard and why. What does the experience tell them about collaboration?

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

- CEO/Founder or entrepreneur. Do you know someone who has started their own business or venture? Invite them to speak about how they balance their own independence with connections with others.
- 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.