

## Sense of Community Scale Directions

There are two ways of using this scale.

For one approach, all respondents can be asked to pick one *Entity* (like a school or group home) to rate and one group of members (such as residents of a group home). This would give the sample a common reference for both *Entity* as well as *Membership*. For the letters “E” below, you would put in the common group or setting, and for the letters “M”, you would put in the word member(s).

On the other hand, our study used a different method that allowed each individual to select their own *Entity* and *Membership*. In other words, the respondents would indicate a self-defined “E” = entity (e.g. the group being referred to, or the neighborhood, school, organization) and a self-defined “M” = members (e.g. members or the neighbors or students within the social network). If this method is used, participants are asked to write a word that is descriptive of the organization he or she is reflecting on (e.g. school, camp, program, etc.). Next, the participant is asked to write a word or phrase that describes the people involved in the organization (e.g. members, students, campers, etc.). In the questions below, you can replace the letter “E” with the Entity that was selected, and the “M” with the Membership that was designated.

Respondents can answer whether they Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Slightly Disagree, Slightly Agree, Agree, or Strongly Agree with the questions below.

S refers to the items from Table 2.

- S1 I think this E was a good E
- S22 I did not leave this E because I wanted to
- S23 For me, this E was a good fit
  
- S10 M could depend on each other in this E
- S12 M could get help from other M if they needed it
- S13 M were secure in sharing opinions or asking for advice
  
- S18 This E was important to me
- S20 I made friends in this E
- S21 I felt good helping the E and the M

The questions above are in the past tense, so if an investigator decides to use this scale for a person’s current sense of community, we suggest using the slight variation of wording below that puts things in the present tense.

- S1 I think this E is a good E
- S22 I am not planning on leaving this E
- S23 For me, this E is a good fit

- S10 M can depend on each other in this E
- S12 M can get help from other M if they need it
- S13 M are secure in sharing opinions or asking for advice
- S18 This E is important to me
- S20 I have friends in this E
- S21 I feel good helping the E and the M