**INTERVIEW GUIDE**

**Introduction**

Thank you for meeting with me today. As I mentioned on the phone, I am completing a thesis for my graduate degree. I would like to spend about an hour discussing your community participation over the course of your life, including as a child, as a young woman, in later life and through today. Our discussion will remain confidential. Your individual responses will not be reported separately, but will be analyzed and reported with all other responses from other interviewees. If I use your story as an example, I will not use your real name. Before we begin, I am giving you a copy of a consent form that says you agree to do this interview. After you review and sign the consent form, we can begin the interview. I will leave a copy of this consent form with you for your records. The consent form also includes my contact information. *(At this point, interviewee/interviewer will sign two copies of the consent form, so that one may be left with the respondent and one may be filed with the investigator.)*

**Before we get started, I have a couple of initial questions to get us moving:**

1. In what year were you born?
2. Are you married, widowed, divorced or never married?
3. What is your race/ethnicity?
4. Do you live alone? If not, with whom do you reside?
5. Do you own or rent your home?
6. How long have you been a resident of this community? Where did you live before here?
7. What is your highest level of education completed?
8. Are you retired? If so, since when? What was your occupation? For how many years did you work?
9. On this card, I have written some annual household income categories. Can you tell me the letter that best represents your annual household income?

**1. What does community participation mean to you? Please be as specific as possible.**

**2. I am interested in learning about your community participation over the course of your whole life. Have you been involved with any local groups or organizations (e.g. Lions Club, political parties, Scouts, PTA) since your retirement?**

**If yes, which ones?**

For each one listed, ask:

* + - How long have you been involved with the group?
    - How/why did you get involved?
    - When did you get involved? How old were you then?
    - Is it a membership organization? Are you a member?
    - What does it take to become a member (e.g. fees, invitation)?
    - How actively are you involved with this group? Typically, how many hours do you spend a week (or a month) with (or for) this group?
    - How many people do you know in this group? (e.g. one, some, half, all)
    - Is that group involved with the community? In what ways does this group participate in your community? Have you ever been involved in the group’s community participation activities? If so, what did you do?
    - Are you still involved with this group?
      * If yes, ask why respondent continues.
      * If no, ask why respondent has stopped.

**If no, could you tell me why not?**

Did something prevent you from getting involved (e.g. lack of interest, resources, opportunity)? Ask for specific reasons.

**Were you involved with any local groups or organizations when you were working (or younger?) If yes, which ones?**

For each one listed, ask:

* + - How long have you been involved with the group?
    - How/why did you get involved?
    - When did you get involved? How old were you then?
    - Is it a membership organization? Are you a member?
    - What does it take to become a member (e.g. fees, invitation)?
    - How actively are you involved with this group? Typically, how many hours do you spend a week (or a month) with (or for) this group?
    - How many people do you know in this group? (e.g. one, some, half, all)
    - Is that group involved with the community? In what ways does this group participate in your community? Have you ever been involved in the group’s community participation activities? If so, what did you do?
    - Are you still involved with this group?
      * If yes, ask why respondent continues.
      * If no, ask why respondent has stopped.

**If no, could you tell me why not?**

Did something prevent you from getting involved (e.g. lack of interest, resources, opportunity)? Ask for specific reasons.

**What about as a child? If so, which ones?**

For each one listed, ask:

* + - How long have you been involved with the group?
    - How/why did you get involved?
    - When did you get involved? How old were you then?
    - Is it a membership organization? Are you a member?
    - What does it take to become a member (e.g. fees, invitation)?
    - How actively are you involved with this group? Typically, how many hours do you spend a week (or a month) with (or for) this group?
    - How many people do you know in this group? (e.g. one, some, half, all)
    - Is that group involved with the community? In what ways does this group participate in your community? Have you ever been involved in the group’s community participation activities? If so, what did you do?
    - Are you still involved with this group?
      * If yes, ask why respondent continues.
      * If no, ask why respondent has stopped.

**If no, could you tell me why not?**

Did something prevent you from getting involved (e.g. lack of interest, resources, opportunity)? Ask for specific reasons.

**3. Have you volunteered somewhere since your retirement?**

**If yes, ask:**

* + - What did you do?
    - Where did you volunteer?
    - When did you do that? About how old were you then?
    - How/why did you get involved?
    - How many people did you know there? (e.g. one, some, half, all)
    - How long did you volunteer there?
    - Are you still a volunteer there?
      * If yes, ask why respondent continues.
      * If no, ask why respondent has stopped.

**If no, may I ask why not?**

Did something prevent you from getting involved (e.g. lack of interest, resources, opportunity)? Ask for specific reasons.

**Have you volunteered somewhere when you were working (or younger?) If yes, which ones?**

For each one listed, ask:

* + - How long have you been involved with the group?
    - How/why did you get involved?
    - When did you get involved? How old were you then?
    - Is it a membership organization? Are you a member?
    - What does it take to become a member (e.g. fees, invitation)?
    - How actively are you involved with this group? Typically, how many hours do you spend a week (or a month) with (or for) this group?
    - How many people do you know in this group? (e.g. one, some, half, all)
    - Is that group involved with the community? In what ways does this group participate in your community? Have you ever been involved in the group’s community participation activities? If so, what did you do?
    - Are you still involved with this group?
      * If yes, ask why respondent continues.
      * If no, ask why respondent has stopped.

**If no, may I ask why not?**

Did something prevent you from getting involved (e.g. lack of interest, resources, opportunity)? Ask for specific reasons.

**Have you volunteered somewhere as a child? If so, which ones?**

For each one listed, ask:

* + - How long have you been involved with the group?
    - How/why did you get involved?
    - When did you get involved? How old were you then?
    - Is it a membership organization? Are you a member?
    - What does it take to become a member (e.g. fees, invitation)?
    - How actively are you involved with this group? Typically, how many hours do you spend a week (or a month) with (or for) this group?
    - How many people do you know in this group? (e.g. one, some, half, all)
    - Is that group involved with the community? In what ways does this group participate in your community? Have you ever been involved in the group’s community participation activities? If so, what did you do?
    - Are you still involved with this group?
      * If yes, ask why respondent continues.
      * If no, ask why respondent has stopped.

**If no, may I ask why not?**

Did something prevent you from getting involved (e.g. lack of interest, resources, opportunity)? Ask for specific reasons.

**4. Have you attended a place of worship (e.g. church, synagogue or temple) regularly since your retirement?**

**If yes, ask:**

* + - Which one?
    - How/why did you get involved?
    - When did you get involved? How old were you then?
    - Are you a member?
    - What does it take to become a member (e.g. financial contribution)?
    - How actively are you involved with this place of worship?
    - How many people do you know in this place? (e.g. one, some, half, all)
    - Is this place of worship involved with the community? In what ways does it participate in your community?
    - Do you still attend this place of worship?
      * If yes, ask why respondent continues.
      * If no, ask why respondent has stopped.

**If no, could you tell me why not?**

Did something prevent you from getting involved (e.g. lack of interest, opportunity)? Ask for specific reasons.

**Did you attend a place of worship when you were working (or younger?) If yes, which ones?**

For each one listed, ask:

* + - How long have you been involved with the group?
    - How/why did you get involved?
    - When did you get involved? How old were you then?
    - Is it a membership organization? Are you a member?
    - What does it take to become a member (e.g. fees, invitation)?
    - How actively are you involved with this group? Typically, how many hours do you spend a week (or a month) with (or for) this group?
    - How many people do you know in this group? (e.g. one, some, half, all)
    - Is that group involved with the community? In what ways does this group participate in your community? Have you ever been involved in the group’s community participation activities? If so, what did you do?
    - Are you still involved with this group?
      * If yes, ask why respondent continues.
      * If no, ask why respondent has stopped.

**If no, may I ask why not?**

Did something prevent you from getting involved (e.g. lack of interest, resources, opportunity)? Ask for specific reasons.

**What about as a child? If so, which ones?**

For each one listed, ask:

* + - How long have you been involved with the group?
    - How/why did you get involved?
    - When did you get involved? How old were you then?
    - Is it a membership organization? Are you a member?
    - What does it take to become a member (e.g. fees, invitation)?
    - How actively are you involved with this group? Typically, how many hours do you spend a week (or a month) with (or for) this group?
    - How many people do you know in this group? (e.g. one, some, half, all)
    - Is that group involved with the community? In what ways does this group participate in your community? Have you ever been involved in the group’s community participation activities? If so, what did you do?
    - Are you still involved with this group?
      * If yes, ask why respondent continues.
      * If no, ask why respondent has stopped.

**If no, may I ask why not?**

Did something prevent you from getting involved (e.g. lack of interest, resources, opportunity)? Ask for specific reasons.

**Ok, I just want to let you know that we’re about halfway through with the interview.**

**5. Have you attended any local government meetings, such as city council or school board since your retirement?**

**If yes, which ones?**

For each one listed, ask:

* + - What motivated you to attend?
    - About how old were you then?
    - How actively are you involved with this group?
    - How many people did you know at these meetings? (e.g. one, some, half, all)
    - Is that group involved with the community? In what ways does this group participate in your community?
    - Are you still involved with this group?
      * If yes, ask why respondent continues.
      * If no, ask why respondent has stopped.

**If no, could you tell me why not?**

Did something prevent you from getting involved (e.g. lack of interest, resources, opportunity)? Ask for specific reasons.

**Did you attend these when you were working (or younger?) If yes, which ones?**

For each one listed, ask:

* + - How long have you been involved with the group?
    - How/why did you get involved?
    - When did you get involved? How old were you then?
    - Is it a membership organization? Are you a member?
    - What does it take to become a member (e.g. fees, invitation)?
    - How actively are you involved with this group? Typically, how many hours do you spend a week (or a month) with (or for) this group?
    - How many people do you know in this group? (e.g. one, some, half, all)
    - Is that group involved with the community? In what ways does this group participate in your community? Have you ever been involved in the group’s community participation activities? If so, what did you do?
    - Are you still involved with this group?
      * If yes, ask why respondent continues.
      * If no, ask why respondent has stopped.

**If no, may I ask why not?**

Did something prevent you from getting involved (e.g. lack of interest, resources, opportunity)? Ask for specific reasons.

**What about as a child? If so, which ones?**

For each one listed, ask:

* + - How long have you been involved with the group?
    - How/why did you get involved?
    - When did you get involved? How old were you then?
    - Is it a membership organization? Are you a member?
    - What does it take to become a member (e.g. fees, invitation)?
    - How actively are you involved with this group? Typically, how many hours do you spend a week (or a month) with (or for) this group?
    - How many people do you know in this group? (e.g. one, some, half, all)
    - Is that group involved with the community? In what ways does this group participate in your community? Have you ever been involved in the group’s community participation activities? If so, what did you do?
    - Are you still involved with this group?
      * If yes, ask why respondent continues.
      * If no, ask why respondent has stopped.

**If no, may I ask why not?**

Did something prevent you from getting involved (e.g. lack of interest, resources, opportunity)? Ask for specific reasons.

**6. Overall, what determined the types of groups with which you decided to get involved? In other words, how did you choose “your” groups?**

**7. Have you voted in local elections since your retirement?**

**If yes, ask?**

* + - What motivated you to vote?
    - Do you believe your vote made a difference?
    - Do you still vote in local elections?
      * If yes, ask why respondent continues.
      * If no, ask why respondent has stopped.

**If no, could you tell me why not?**

Did something discourage you from voting (e.g. lack of interest, resources, opportunity)? Ask for specific reasons.

**Did you vote in local elections when you were working (or younger?) If yes, which ones?**

* + - What motivated you to vote then?
    - About how old were you when you first voted?
    - Do you believe your vote made a difference in your younger years?
    - Did you still vote in local elections until your retirement?
      * If yes, ask why respondent continued.
      * If no, ask why respondent stopped.

**If no, may I ask why not?**

Did something prevent you from voting (e.g. lack of interest, resources, opportunity)? Ask for specific reasons.

**Concluding questions:**

*I have a few more questions and then we’ll be finished*.

**8. For various reasons, people your age sometimes have to stop volunteering or participating. What do you think some people continue to stay active in their community as they age while others stop participating?**

**9. What do you believe to be the important issues facing your community today? Have you been involved in community efforts to address those issues?**

**10. Overall, what influenced you the most to participate in your community?**

**11. In your opinion, describe what an ideal community is like.**

**12. Do you know of any other individuals with whom I should speak?**

Those are all the questions I have for you today. Do you have any questions for me?

I will call you if I have any further questions.

Thank you for your time. I enjoyed meeting you.