



"Sponsorship"

a how-to discussion

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Saturday, September 20, 2014

- the third Saturday in September -

Time: 1:30-3:30pm

Freedom Fellowship Group

Moffett Central Shopping Center
327 Moffett Blvd in Mountain View

Roundtable sharing of sponsorship experience

on topics including:

- ✓ Preparing to Sponsor
- ✓ Finding Sponsees
- ✓ The First 30 Days
- ✓ The First Year
- ✓ Long-term "Maintenance" Sponsorship
- ✓ Common Challenges
- ✓ Service Sponsorship

Share your experience!

Learn from the experience of others!

Consider bringing delicious munchies!

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Newcomers & oldtimers are welcome.

Sponsorship Discussion Questions

These are just questions – not recommendations. We hope to hear diverse viewpoints and approaches on each question, and we hope people will explain “why” and not just “how” they do things, so that we can gain insight and refine our own methods.

PREPARATION – preparing & getting sponsees

1. How soon do you think people should start sponsoring? How do people prepare to sponsor and learn about sponsorship?
2. Should sponsors help prepare their sponsees to sponsor others? If so, how?
3. How does a person find sponsees? How do you decide whether to sponsor someone who asks you? How do you decide how many people to sponsor?
4. Do you have a standard speech or list of rules at the outset (e.g., "Call me every day or you're fired")? Do you have a general plan or agenda for the first day, week, month, year...?

SOBRIETY & FELLOWSHIP – establishing relationships and helping people settle in

1. Do you have a set of basic suggestions for new sponsees (e.g., "Get a phone list")? Do you involve yourself in what meetings a sponsee attends or how often?
2. Do you ask your sponsees to attend your home group?
3. How do you meet with the sponsee, and how often - Restaurants? At home? By phone? Via email? At meetings?
4. Do you use literature in the early days - Big Book, 12&12, Grapevines, pamphlets, Traditions checklist, Guidelines, Box 4-5-9, other? Do you use outside (non-Conference-approved) material?
5. Do you encourage participation in fellowship social activity (coffee, pizza, etc.) or events such as picnics, dances, and conventions?
6. What do you do to help them stay sober in the early days?

STEPS & SERVICE – the major early work, more or less “the first year”

1. Do you have a general timetable for getting someone through the Steps, e.g., 3 months, 12 months, etc.? Do you have specific goals & objectives?
2. How do you take someone through the Steps, e.g., discussion, reading, “assignments”? Do you favor a particular approach such as: Big Book method, 12 & 12 method, “Unofficial Guide”, Joe & Charlie, “Back To Basics”, Hazelden guides, other?
3. Do you talk about Traditions and/or Concepts?
4. Do you talk about pamphlets and literature?
5. Do you help them get service commitments?

6. Do you help them get sponsees?
7. Do you encourage them to attend workshops, district meetings, or assemblies?

LONG-TERM SPONSORSHIP – maintenance work and moving on with life

1. Do you have a general plan for sponsees who are in long-term recovery or the “maintenance Steps”?
2. How often do you meet or talk with sponsees who are well established in recovery? What do you talk about?
3. Do you continue to work actively with sponsees on their defects, inventory, or amends? On their religious or spiritual life? On their efforts to sponsor and do service?
4. Do you encourage sponsees to try other therapies such as other 12 Step programs, counseling, etc.?
5. To what extent are you involved in your sponsee's personal life (e.g., health, finance, romance, family, career) and major life events?
6. Do you socialize with sponsees?
7. What do you do, if anything, when you see a sponsee slipping away from recovery?

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

1. Any thoughts on sponsoring people who:
 - a. are older, wealthier, or more accomplished than you? have been sober longer?
 - b. are gay/straight? are of the opposite sex?
 - c. have a strong personality? you don't have good chemistry with?
 - d. are atheist? are very religious?
 - e. are very young?
 - f. have a family?
 - g. have special needs, health issues, or reading/language challenges?
 - h. are very busy?
2. How do you handle people who transfer to you from another sponsor?
3. How do you handle people who are returning from a relapse? How do you deal with chronic relapsers?
4. Do you ever sponsor people who are still in treatment? What about people who are in a jail, prison, mental hospital, or other institution?
5. Are anti-depressants or other medications an issue for you in sponsorship? How do you sponsor people who are involved with other therapies at the same time? How do you deal with people who have other serious mental illnesses?
6. What do you think about “firing” sponsees? Have you ever been “fired” by a sponsee?
7. Do you practice “service sponsorship”? How?
8. What are some mistakes you've made and what are some of the hardest things about sponsorship? What has worked well for you and what are some of the best things about sponsorship?
9. Is there one right way or best way to sponsor?