

AA Bridge the Gap and AA Orientation
GUIDELINES for all Volunteers
(Last updated 11/22/2022)

Please read before your session and keep a copy for your reference. The Treatment Center Committee has found the following guidelines to be essential in carrying the AA message to clients in treatment.

1. Our 10th tradition states: "AA has no opinion on outside issues ...," and the AA Preamble reiterates in more detail: "... A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes" Please protect and maintain the integrity of Alcoholics Anonymous by avoiding discussion on outside issues during your session. This includes, but is not limited to questions regarding medical or legal issues, specific religions, or other recovery programs. INSTEAD: redirect these questions to their appropriate authority or gently remind residents of the purpose of these panels as stated in the meeting format document.
2. You are required to have one year of continuous sobriety, have worked the Twelve Steps, and have a current sponsor.
3. If you have not been assigned a position by a Treatment Center Committee chairperson, please just listen this time. Assigned members may bring a sponsee with 10+ months of sobriety only to observe how we carry the message in this way. Contact a chairperson to be put on the schedule.
4. If you are unable to attend your scheduled panel, find a suitable replacement from among known current volunteers and notify the committee chairperson who scheduled you. All panelists, including substitutes, must be cleared by the committee.
5. Meetings last for one hour and are conducted by one panel member who agrees to lead the meeting. Use the BTG format for the Pavilion. It is in the binder, located at the front desk. Material for virtual meetings will be emailed to you.
6. It is up to the chairperson to stop distractions during the meeting, including cross talk between clients. If time permits before starting, push tables aside and set up chairs in classroom style rows, facing toward the panelists. Not necessary, but helpful.
7. Distracting clients may need a reminder now and then that this Q & A forum is intended for ONLY the panelists to respond. Try, "Do you have a question that we can help you with?"
8. To allow time to cover as many questions as possible, please answer briefly by sharing your own experience, strength, and hope, and only on the topic that clients ask about. We aren't here to tell our stories.

9. If you are here in search of a life partner you are in the wrong place. This unacceptable “thirteenth step” behavior robs newly sober alcoholics the opportunity to put their full attention on recovery.

10. Please use discretion when clients ask for phone numbers.

For questions or concerns, please contact a Treatment Center Committee chairperson. You also may send a message through the Treatment Centers Committee page on the District 12 website at aa-eci.org or directly to treatment-centers@aa-eci.org .