

Loyola Campout Meeting Traditions Friday Night Meeting Format

Overview

This meeting, above all others, is meant to be fun yet serious. Many of the family members have never had the opportunity to see how we share our Recovery with each other. Some of our own members have not been around healthy families before. So, this meeting has an opportunity to be a wonderful experience by all.

Introductions

"Welcome to The Loyola Men's Group's Annual Friday Night Campout Fireside Meeting. We're happy that you could join us.

"I'm _____,an alcoholic and I've been sober since _____ date _____."

- Begin with a good long moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer.
- Introduce "How It Works" by telling them that we begin each meeting by reminding ourselves what's wrong, and how we can get better, by reading a portion of Chapter 5 of the "Big Book" of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Topic

"One of the most valued things that is returned to us in our new sobriety is our sense of humor. Our new ability to laugh at ourselves, especially our past,is both welcomed and appreciated.

The Loyola Men's Group has had a longtime tradition of focusing its discussion on recovery – what we are doing now, and leaving stories of our active disease to other meetings.

Tonight,as we gather around this campfire,you are invited to participate in a meeting where we tell funny stories about ourselves. Each of us can recall things we did to others or ourselves which only now in recovery have a humorous side. Perhaps this is but another example of how much forgiveness is built into the Program?

This meeting is not meant to keep anyone sober, but surely our zest and appreciation for life may well keep people coming back.Think clean – think funny!

For tonight's meeting, other than for a few of the guys I've asked to get us started,I'll ask you to raise your hand,and I'll call on you."

Suggestions and Reminders

- Chose a good reader for "How It Works"
- Read the part from our format about the "Chirp".

Please announce

Speakers are asked to limit their talks to three minutes, so as to allow more people an opportunity to share. At 2½ minutes, a chirp will sound as a courtesy advisory of how much time you've used.Also, even though some of us choose to share our first and last names, please be reminded that the identities and comments revealed here are not meant to be shared with others."

- For tonight, ask people when they introduce themselves to state their AA Birthday.
- Ask speakers to introduce their guests as they share.
- Speak loudly – really loudly! Speak from your feet, and make others do the same.
- Remember to control the meeting; speaking up when needed, by choosing whom to call on next, by making yourself vulnerable, can do this. You are "our host". Act as if you have invited us into your home.

End With a Thank-you, and an Invitation to Stay and Visit, as We Do Each Week.

- The Lord's Prayer