

Friday Night Campout 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. Besides these obvious benefits, this meeting is meant to give our family and friends a chance to participate in ways that can be uplifting to all and teach others how AA has changed their life. Example is our best teacher.

Introductions

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

"Welcome to The Loyola Men's Group's 31st Annual Friday Night Campout Fireside Meeting. We're happy that you could join us. I'm David McGilchrist, an alcoholic and I've been sober since __August 21st, 1993_."

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

"As we men of Loyola meet each week, we discuss the various parts of our lives that not only affect our individual lives, but those around us as well. 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 campground, you are invited to participate in a meeting where our topic is, How AA has affected my life. The topic is universal to all, our regular members, AND our family and friends."

Present your sharing on How AA has affected your life at this point in the meeting.

"Each of you who shares, is encouraged to be open and honest, perhaps vulnerable as well, which is one of Loyola's finest traditions."

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 2 1/2 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."

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."

Friday Night Campout Meeting Format

Suggestions & Reminders

Chose a good reader for "How It Works"

For tonight, ask people when they introduce themselves to state their AA Birthday.

Ask speakers to introduce their guests as they share.

Speak really loudly! Speak from your feet at the microphone, & make others do the same

Have your chair up front so you can get to the microphone quickly.

After the meeting gets going, tell folks that if they'd like to share, they should raise their hand so you can see them.

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