

Sponsorship Workshop

The First Things First Group hosted a Sponsorship Workshop on Saturday, March 21. The workshop, based on the AA-approved pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship,” the event drew **49** attendees who enjoyed great conversations around:

- What sponsorship is—and what it is not
- For the person seeking a sponsor
- For the person wanting to be a sponsor



Here are some of the Key points the groups reported out:

1. A sponsor is not a banker or lawyer; they guide the sponsee through the 12 Steps, share what they have been freely given, and help the sponsee connect with a Higher Power.
2. Sponsorship is an ongoing relationship; a sponsor should be an active listener and possess something the sponsee needs for recovery.
3. Sponsors and Sponsees do not have to be alike, but they should identify with one another.
4. Sponsees need to be teachable.
5. A sponsee can have more than one sponsor in certain situations (e.g., snowbirds), but having multiple sponsors can create conflicts if the sponsee plays one against another.
6. The only time you don't need a sponsor is if you are dead.
7. Sponsorship helps guide Sponsees through early recovery and difficult times.
8. A person is ready to sponsor when they have worked the Steps with a sponsor, currently have a sponsor, and have time to help a sponsee.
9. Sponsorship should be tailored to the Sponsees needs—sponsors do not all sponsor alike.
10. The Big Book is a great resource for explaining the program.
11. Boundaries should be established with the Sponsees family, friends, and employers.
12. Sponsor style (firm vs. casual) should match the needs of the sponsee.

What's next?

The group decided to hold quarterly workshops to cover more details on how sponsors work the Steps with Sponsees and to share tools and ideas. The next workshop will be held **Saturday, June 13, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Old School House. Topic: Steps 1, 2, and 3.**

Hope to see everyone there.

Joyce T