



AN INTRODUCTION TO RETREATS & OFF-SITE TRAINING

Effective organizations take time to train and develop their members into leaders. Group members that understand how to communicate, challenge and create vision will create an organization that does great things!

Whether you take your group away for a weekend retreat, or provide specialized workshops during meetings, helping your members to develop as leaders will prove to be an essential part of building a dynamic organization. Training is something that should take place all year long. If you are interested in planning discussion topics for meetings, the beginning of the year is an excellent time to teach your members about developing effective communication skills, conflict resolution techniques, and learning to work with different personality styles. Planning a weekend retreat at the beginning of your training process enables your group to do some expectation/goal setting, and work on teambuilding to establish a bond between group members. Depending on your organizations size and budget, you can plan a one day retreat, work together for a few hours before the first meeting of the year, or go away for an entire weekend.

If your funds are low, retreats do not always need to be an off-site experience. Checkout other resources in your community. The content of your time together is the more important than location. Utilizing your time to create relationships between members, clarify roles and establish realistic goals with action plans for achieving them are what a training experience should entail. Professional development training can happen through activities during meetings, encouraging your members to attend local workshops and conferences or other state/national opportunities. Whether you are planning a day long adventure or a weekend marathon, utilizing your time effectively and keeping it fun is essential to your success.

This resources will provide you with a variety of tools to help you plan effective training, education and retreats for your organization. Special tips will guide you in preparing a plan for your group. Remember: tailor everything to your group and do your best to involve others in your vision.

YOU DON'T PLAN TO FAIL

YOU FAIL TO PLAN