



RETREAT SCHEDULE

The schedule of your retreat is the first hint to members about the ~~content and~~ expectations of what will be accomplished. It is important to **give it out in advance** so that group members will have their expectations clarified. Remember: information provides them with control and this creates a more comfortable atmosphere/a more productive experience for all who are involved. So, we just told you to give it to them in advance - **but don't give it all away!** Offer an outline of what is to come but don't let them in on every detail of the experience. It is ok, in fact -it is good, to **build in some surprises.**

Talk to your self in advance about **being flexible with the schedule.** You have to be ready for a certain session or topic to go extremely well (or to go poorly) and this may call for a schedule adjustment. You don't want to compromise ground breaking dialogue just because the schedule says it is time to move on. You also need to be up front with your group about the flexibility of the schedule. Every group has a clock watcher or 2. **Don't be afraid to have members check their watch and cell phone at the door** or at least at the beginning of each session. The success your group will experience is based upon meaningful dialogue and you might have to deviate from the schedule to accomplish this.

You may change the curricular schedule but **don't compromise the breaks** as they are planned. We are back to this control thing again. Your members need to have some time they can count on to be away from the group, make a phone call, unload and reload, etc. You have 2 choices: **allow group members to come and go as they need to OR stick to scheduled breaks** and notify your group in advance when they will occur. Try not to go longer than 90 minutes without a break. Set parameters about how long the break(s) will last.

Create Binders for each Retreat Goer:

- Goals/schedule for the retreat
- Mission/Vision/Values of the group
- Helpful tips from previous members
- All handouts pertinent to the retreat curriculum