

Back to the Basics of Sponsorship

Key Concepts from the 1940's

1. Put no block between the sponsee and Step Twelve.

Get the sponsee to Step Twelve as quickly as possible, so he or she can experience the life-changing spiritual awakening that occurs as the direct result of taking the Steps. Assure the sponsee that our program of action "works-it really does." Explain that the process is simple and straight-forward.

2. Call the sponsee.

Demonstrate that you are interested in the sponsee's well-being by checking in with him or her on a regular basis. The sponsee needs your encouragement and support.

3. Read the appropriate parts of the "Big Book" to the sponsee.

The sponsee may not be able to comprehend the "Big Book" by him or herself. Therefore, read and discuss the appropriate parts of the book to the sponsee, specifically those 50 or so passages that pertain directly to taking the Twelve Steps.

4. The healing is in the sharing not in the writing.

Sit down with the sponsee and guide him or her through the Fourth Step inventory. Write the inventory while the sponsee does the talking. This will help relieve any anxiety or apprehension the sponsee may have about this part of the program.

5. Assist the sponsee with his or her amends.

Work together on the sponsee's amends. Be the first person the sponsee sees after an amends is made.

6. Share guidance with the sponsee.

Show the sponsee that you believe in and are practicing two-way prayer on a daily basis.

7. Co-sponsor the next sponsee.

Have the sponsee accompany you as you work with the next person. This way, the sponsee will gain confidence in his or her ability to guide others through the recovery process.