

FINDING A SPONSOR – What are the barriers?

- Difficulty asking
- Asking for help is a true admission of the first step
- Fear of rejection; taking it personally
- Not feeling deserving
- Not knowing how to select someone to ask
- Not understanding the process that only adds to the fear
- Lacking clarity in What I'm looking for in a sponsor? What am I wanting *from* sponsorship?
- Looking for the “perfect sponsor”
- Only hearing from those that are vocal
- Not enough people available to sponsor
- *Told to look for someone with similar struggles (husband and son), so had trouble finding someone with both. Now know to look for a sponsor working a program.*
- *Some people seem to have a sense of entitlement to meet with their sponsor 1x/week*
- *Use the phone lists as temporary sponsor; don't need TS next to names since they are already giving permission to call them*
- *Too much anonymity harms sponsorship: when someone asks us and we can't, we are hesitate to share with others our sponsor or sponsee names that are willing.*
- *Ask at meetings for sponsor candidates to stand up*
- *Suggest a sponsor for another member*
- *Share at meetings*

Discuss suggestions on how to articulate the request: how can we demystify the process of asking?

Read from Sponsorship brochure: *Choosing a Sponsor and How do I Choose a Sponsor? pg. 4 - 5*

- H.O.W. to find a sponsor? Being **H**onest that you can't do it alone; **O**penness to ask, ask, ask; **W**illingness to show up, tell the truth, trust the process/trust God and don't try to impress anyone.

Some thoughts that people gave on how to find a sponsor:

- Use the phone list and talk to someone
- Ask someone to go for coffee
- Grab another member and be “step study buddies”
- Start a step study group and do the steps together
- Gather 2 – 3 newcomers and meet weekly to do the steps together
- Go to more meetings, especially smaller ones, to meet more people
- Have temporary sponsor lists (though this seems to have limited results)
- Have a way for less vocal/visible people willing to sponsor to let people know that they are available (during share time, stand up and say they are available)
- Organize social gatherings...easy ones...meet somewhere for a picnic...opportunity to get to know each other better and relax
- Perseverance and commitment

*****In looking for a sponsor, it's important to have clarity on what you are asking someone to do***

Read from the Sponsorship brochure: *How will a sponsor help me? – pg 5 - 6*