

WAYSHOWERS COLLEGE

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SUGGESTIONS FOR FACILITATING A GROUP'S FIRST MEETING

Applies to New Spiritual Horizons (NSH or Blue Manual) when there is no "Get Acquainted" meeting and also to Foundations of Spiritual Development (FSD or Orange Manual). There is much to cover in the first meeting so you may aim to keep the timing at a calm yet steady pace. Have fun!

1. a) Introduce yourself as the Facilitator for the group meeting. Introduce the Group Shepherd,
b) Mention that from time to time they may be asked to lead or what is called "referee" a section of the meeting and that they will read more about the Referee and Group Shepherd roles in a few minutes.
2. a) Share that there is a standardized format for the meetings that is geared for them to get the most out of the two hours. Each week's outline is laid out in the (Blue or Orange) Group Manuals. (The newer books may now be in different colors. Refer to Titles above).
b) For those who do not yet have their copy, one can be purchased or ordered through the Group Shepherd at the end of the meeting. That and the reading book they will be using costs \$15.
3. a) Have the participants take turns reading pages 2 through 6 of the blue New Spiritual Horizons Study Group Manual for a NSH group. For a FSD group, they read pages 3 through 6 of that book.
b) Explain that every group is autonomous.
4. Clarify concerns they might have from the lecture or workshop they recently attended.
5. Proceed with the experience of Week 1. At the end of the Technique portion but before the Outflow portion, lead the Group Shepherd Initiation for the Group Shepherd.
6. Give the Group Shepherd a copy of the "Checklist for the Group Shepherd Opportunity", the Group Shepherd Message, and two copies of the Group Enrollment Sheet (1 to keep as an original).
7. a) Have the Group Shepherd set the place for the next meeting at the same timing.
b) Regroup with the Group Shepherd afterwards and ask them to call those who had signed up for the group but were absent at the first meeting with the "when" and "where" of the next one.