

# HOW TO LEAD A DISCOVERY EVENT

## A DISCOVERY EVENT

A Discovery Event is a planned, intentional way to invite participants to:

- identify persons who may need the caring of a Support Team,
- consider how and where they may want to care for others,
- and see a team approach as a workable way for them to be involved.

Every Discovery Event should provide the means for recording information on the first two items.

A Discovery Event can be “general” to introduce a group to the Support Team concept, or it can be a specific intentional gathering of persons on a team who may have mentioned to the Support Team Friend at some point, “If there is anything I can do to help you, just let me know.” You can invite and gather those persons and have an informal Discovery Event. The Support Team Friend usually is not present in this meeting so that people feel free to say yes or no in regards to serving on a team. However, there are exceptions to everything!

## HOW TO PREPARE FOR A DISCOVERY EVENT

1. Select an appropriate time and place.
  - a. This may be at the regular meeting time of an established group, such as an adult education class or a civic club. If so, ask those in charge to provide advanced information regarding the nature of the event. In other words, the Discovery Event shouldn't be a surprise program. When a Discovery Event is a special called meeting, you're usually able to plan the time and agenda in ways that maximize your central purpose.
2. Be creative in publicizing the meeting and inviting people in a personal way.
  - Along with general announcements in newsletters, public gatherings, email, etc., there is no substitution for personal invitations to individuals and particular groups. Use sentences like, “Hear how you can make a difference in someone's life doing what you love to do.” “Want to be a part of a winning team? Find out more about a team approach to caring.”
3. Prepare the forms participants will use to record their responses (see Follow Up form).
4. Schedule a Support Team Orientation to announce at The Discovery Event (“next step”).
  - At the Discovery Event, be ready to announce the next step for those who want to be on a Support Team. Orientation is basic training to equip a Team to get started. Teams have done it in a variety of ways. One possibility is to have an Orientation for 2-3 hours and cover all of the basics before you begin. Another way is to cover key parts of Orientation in each of your first three monthly team meetings.
  - Orientation can also be completed by team members online for those who cannot come to the team's orientation. Go to <http://SupportTeams.org>.
5. Prepare the Agenda. If leadership is to be shared in the Discovery Event, be clear about who is leading each part of the meeting.