

How to start a Young Peoples NA Meeting

1. Is there a NEED for a meeting? This is not just for a special interest meeting, but for any meeting.
2. Find a few other addicts that are interested in starting this kind of meeting. Younger members, or those who got clean young, are ideal. You wouldn't round up men to start a women's meeting, now would you? We are never alone and starting a meeting should never be a one person job. If you can find someone who already has experience in starting an NA meeting, that would be helpful.
3. Find a venue/meeting place. When approaching facilities it is often easier to call on ones where you know NA already meets, as they are already evidently open to our cause. If a facility does not already have NA, offer a PI presentation to the facility and then contact your local Public Information Chairperson through Area Service. Use them to go in and do a formal presentation to the facility that is interested.
4. Our traditions state "NA meetings should never be in competition with one another..." Make sure that your venue, day, and time does not conflict with another meeting (this is not always possible).
5. Then you can begin meeting with the other members interested in starting a young peoples meeting and discuss the meeting format, the group's policy, meeting name, etc.

NA meetings have tremendous freedom to operate in a way that works best for the members of that particular group. If you do not have a copy of the Group Booklet, you can read it online: https://na.org/admin/include/spaw2/uploads/pdf/litfiles/us_english/Booklet/Group%20Booklet.pdf or request a copy from your Area Service Committee. It is fellowship approved literature and quite useful in resolving disputes about whether a groups activities are in conflict with our traditions.

Also, bulletin #18 called "Special Interest Meetings" can be found at <https://www.na.org/bulletins/bull18-r.htm>. The gist of that is that the Board of Trustees at the time it was written concluded that there is nothing in conflict with our traditions to have common-needs or "special interest" meetings. The general point is summed up in one sentence from the bulletin: "Special interest meetings tend to survive and flourish in local NA communities where there is a need and desire for such meetings and do not exist in NA communities where there is no need or desire."

Bulletin #18 and the Group Booklet both contain nothing that indicates that common-needs meetings, such as youth meetings, are in conflict with our traditions, as long as that group does not turn any addict away, *regardless of*. Our third tradition states that "The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using", and any meeting that turns away an addict seeking recovery is NOT an NA meeting, as defined by six points in our group booklet:

1. All members of a group are drug addicts, and all drug addicts are eligible for membership.
2. As a group, they are self-supporting.
3. As a group, their single goal is to help drug addicts recover through application of the Twelve Steps of Narcotics Anonymous.
4. As a group, they have no affiliation outside Narcotics Anonymous.
5. As a group, they express no opinion on outside issues.
6. As a group, their public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion.

You can contact the World Service Office at 818.773.9999 to request a free group starter kit. (This document was compiled of member's experience in starting meetings throughout the United States as well as specific references to fellowship approved literature.)