

AT THE MEETING

Introduce the newcomer to as many AA members as possible, including the secretary or chairperson. Beyond this, try not to pressure your contact.

Literature that a newcomer may find useful:

A Newcomer Asks (P-24)

Questions/Answers on Sponsorship (P-15)

Do You Think You Are Different (P-13)

AA at a Glance (F-1)

AFTER THE MEETING

Using a meeting list as your guide, plan to attend another meeting with your contact.

Explain to the newcomer the value of having a home group and a sponsor and encourage them to join a group and get a sponsor (even a “temporary” sponsor) without delay.

Note: Bridging the Gap is not to be confused with “sponsorship”. It is best if that word is not used to describe your service.

The BTG volunteer can “let go” of a newcomer as soon as sponsor has been found or the period of contact has ended, whichever comes first.

WHAT AA DOES

AA helps people with a desire to stop drinking find a solution to their problem.

In AA, our primary purpose is to stay sober and help the alcoholic who still suffers.

WHAT AA DOES NOT DO

- Offer to find jobs, housing or clothes
- Provide money or transportation
- Offer professional counseling
- Solicit members to join A.A.
- Charge membership dues or fees
- Accept money from nonmembers
- Keep membership records
- Operate clinics or sober houses
- Practice medicine, psychiatry or nursing
- Offer religious services or dogma

AA HOTLINES

- *Boston Area* (617) 426-9444 9 am-9 pm
- *Central MA* (508) 752-9000 24 hours
- *Western MA* (413) 532-2111
- *Berkshires* (413) 443-0212
- *Cape Cod* (508) 775-7060
- *Oak Bluffs* (508) 627-7084

[BTG REQUEST HELP FORM](#)



This pamphlet is approved by the Treatment Committee of Area 30 District 26 (5/2023)

District 26

Treatment Committee



Bridging the Gap Volunteer Guidelines

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aaDistrict26.org



*I AM RESPONSIBLE...
When anyone, anywhere, reaches
out for help, I want the hand of AA
always to be there. And for that:
I am responsible*

BRIDGING THE GAP PURPOSE

The purpose of **Bridging the Gap (BTG)** is to serve as a “bridge” between treatment facility patients (in-patient & outpatient) and the local AA community. BTG volunteers are simply AA members who wish to help other alcoholics.

BTG is part of A.A. and not connected with any treatment facility or institution.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are “bridges” to the AA fellowship, introducing a newly-released alcoholic to others in AA so they can form a broad base for their recovery. Like all 12th step work, there is no compensation for BTG volunteer work.

At least one year of sobriety is suggested. Also, observe gender boundaries if at all possible.

RELATED LITERATURE

Primary Purpose Card (F-17)

Information on AA (F-2)

Frequently Asked Questions About AA (P-2)

Safety Card for A.A. Groups (F-211)

Bridging The Gap (GSO Pamphlet P-49)

[This Pamphlet](#)



VOLUNTEER'S COMMITMENT

As a BTG volunteer, your service consists of introducing your new contact to AA groups or meetings in your local area. It is suggested a BTG volunteer commit to take a newcomer to at least 3-4 meetings over a two week period. Anything beyond that is your choice.

We don't offer or imply any other service unless we are willing to personally perform such service.

MAKING ARRANGEMENTS

Information will be given to you of a patient who has requested to go to a meeting with another AA member living in their area. Experience shows it is important to make the initial contact as soon as possible. Try to make arrangements for a meeting within 48 hours of initial contact.

Distractions are common. When calling your contact, instead of asking if they want to go to a meeting, it is OK to just say: “I'll be over at 7:30 to go to a meeting.” ***If they really don't want to go, they will let you know.***

[BTG VOLUNTEER FORM](#)



THE 12TH STEP CALL

As a BTG volunteer, the responsibility is yours for arranging 12th step calls. You may be the first AA outsider your contact meets. It is very important that you be easygoing, friendly and interested. Be on time and be sure you know in advance where you are going to meet.

Ideally, try to contact an in-patient client while they are still at their facility. However, this can be difficult, perhaps due to the limited length of stay at in-patient facilities.

It is important to contact a new person as soon as possible; experience has shown the first day(s) are the most crucial.

BTG volunteers are expected to keep the conversation focused on AA related matters. Avoid discussing the newcomer's treatment. (Remember, AA has no opinions on outside matters.)

BTG volunteers may acquaint the newcomers with AA literature, the *Meeting Guide* app, meeting lists, the local intergroup, etc.

[Download Meeting Guide](#)

