

What Are the Responsibilities of the Sponsor?

This document describes the responsibilities assumed by the sponsor of a Couple Enrichment retreat. You may sponsor a retreat yourself or ask your meeting to assume this role.

Couple Enrichment asks sponsors to:

Identify potentially interested couples

- Four to ten couples are ideal for a retreat - as few as four couples and as many as ten can be accommodated
- Talk with the couples about workable dates
- If a weekend format (Friday night – Sunday lunch) is not suitable, talk with the leader couple about designing a program to suit your needs (for example, two consecutive Saturdays, Friday evening – Saturday night)

Identify a suitable site

- Couple enrichment retreats have been held in large homes or vacation homes as well as in retreat centers and camps
- The ideal site offers a comfortable meeting room, an extra room for dividing into two groups, and spaces for couples to go off on their own
- Ideally, it is a place where everyone can stay overnight, with private accommodations for each couple
- If an overnight format is not feasible, couples can commute and sessions can be held in a meetinghouse or a home (if using a meeting house bear in mind that you may have to find a different space for use on Sunday morning)

Decide on arrangements for meals

- There are many meal options. The Couple Enrichment leaders will be happy to talk with about what might best suit your needs

Arrange for support from the meeting community

- If the meeting is the sponsor of the retreat other community members may be willing to offer their support. If you are an individual sponsor you may want to ask your meeting for some support
- In the past meetings have supported couple enrichment retreats by providing space, offering childcare, bringing in meals, and helping to cover the costs

Publicize the retreat

- If there are not enough interested couples in your meeting, consider inviting participants from other meetings or churches in your area. Participants need not be Quaker.

Work out the fees

- You may need to cover the costs of the space you rent, transportation and hospitality for the leader couple, advertising or publicity. On occasion a host may need to support childcare costs.
- Couple Enrichment requests a contribution of:
 - \$10 per couple for a half-day event.
 - \$20 per couple for a single day event
 - \$30 per couple for weekend retreats;

This fee is used for continuing education and support for CE leaders and the Couple Enrichment ministry.

- In addition, some couples ask for an honorarium.

This document was downloaded from the website of Friends General Conference. Explore the many resources and opportunities we offer for Quakers, Quaker meetings, and all interested individuals. Go to www.fgcquaker.org.



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