



SMART Recovery Volunteer Code of Conduct

As a SMART Recovery volunteer, you play a crucial role in helping individuals build balanced lives. This Code of Conduct is grounded in SMART Recovery's core values—Empowerment, Equity, Inclusion, Integrity, and Accountability—and serves as a guide for the behaviors that uphold those principles.

Principles of Being a SMART Recovery Volunteer

1. Promote Independence from Addictive Behavior

Volunteers are committed to fostering an environment that encourages self-empowerment and individual growth.

- Encourage participants to set and pursue their goals independently.
- Avoid imposing personal beliefs or opinions that could hinder participants' autonomy.

2. Support Participants' Self-Determination

Volunteers respect and encourage participants to define and pursue their personal goals within SMART Recovery's framework.

- Guide participants to appropriate resources when their goals extend beyond the program's scope.
- Maintain a supportive role without offering medical, legal, or professional advice.

3. Act with Integrity

Volunteers conduct themselves honestly and responsibly in all aspects of their role.

- Fulfill all volunteer duties to the best of your ability.
- Be transparent and sincere in all interactions with participants and fellow volunteers.

4. Respect the Dignity and Worth of Every Person

Volunteers treat every participant with respect, mindful of individual and cultural differences, creating an inclusive space for all.

- Show respect for cultural, ethnic, and personal differences.

- Foster an inclusive, non-judgmental atmosphere.
5. **Serve as a Community Resource**
Volunteers make SMART Recovery available to all who seek support, recognizing the importance of community engagement.
- Actively promote accessibility and inclusivity in meetings.
 - Seek to engage diverse community members in SMART Recovery resources.
6. **Pursue Knowledge and Competence**
Volunteers continually develop their knowledge of SMART Recovery tools and principles, maintaining high standards of competence.
- Regularly engage in training and stay updated on developments in addiction recovery when informed about them by SMART.
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Behavioral Guidelines for SMART Recovery Volunteers

1. **Honor Our Commitments**

Volunteers follow through on their commitments, especially when leading meetings.

- Notify participants and the SMART Recovery National Office in advance if unable to hold a scheduled meeting, ensuring timely communication of any changes.
- Regularly review meeting listings to ensure accuracy, updating details as needed to reflect current meeting information.

2. **Protect Confidentiality**

Volunteers uphold the privacy of all participants, disclosing information only when necessary by law or to prevent harm.

- For mandated reporters, clarify at each meeting the scope of what must be reported.
- Use discretion when handling participants' personal information.

3. **Avoid Conflicts of Interest**

Volunteers maintain appropriate boundaries and avoid using their role for personal, political, or financial gain.

- Refrain from promoting personal interests within the meeting space.
- Do not engage in personal, business, or political activities that could compromise the integrity of the program.

4. Avoid Harassment and Exploitation

Volunteers maintain professionalism, avoiding any form of harassment, exploitation, or inappropriate relationships with participants, other volunteers, or National Office staff.

- Demonstrate respect, courtesy, and consideration in all interactions, fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for participants, fellow volunteers, and staff.
- Ensure all conduct reflects the values of SMART Recovery.

5. Work Together and Collaborate

Volunteers collaborate with others in the SMART Recovery community to support teamwork and mutual respect.

- Recognize and value the contributions of fellow volunteers, participants, and National Office staff, fostering a culture of appreciation and shared goals.
- Collaborate effectively with different programs aligned with independence from addictive behavior.

6. Provide Accurate Representation

Volunteers represent SMART accurately by distinguishing between personal views and SMART Recovery's stance.

- Avoid overstating expertise or experience.

7. Proactively Address Facilitation Challenges

Volunteers are expected to proactively address any personal, ethical, or professional challenges that impact their ability to facilitate meetings effectively.

- If an issue arises that affects your capacity to facilitate, promptly inform SMART Recovery leadership for guidance and support.
- Collaborate with SMART Recovery leadership to determine an appropriate course of action, ensuring continuity and quality of support for participants.