

AA District 2 1728 Sponsorship Workshop

Facilitator Guide (60 Minutes, Single Facilitator with 3-Person Panel)

Workshop Overview

1728 Sponsorship weaves together AA's three sets of Twelve: the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts of World Service ($12 \times 12 \times 12 = 1728$). Instead of treating sponsorship as Step work alone, this approach guides a sponsee toward a fuller understanding of personal recovery, group unity, and AA's service structure. It centers on a 3-person panel sharing their own lived experience with 1728 Sponsorship, both what it has been like to be sponsored this way and what it has been like to sponsor someone else this way.

Total run time is 60 minutes. All times below are elapsed time from the start of the workshop and can be shifted to match your actual start time. There is no scheduled break, so keep segments moving and start on time.

Roles and Responsibilities

Give each person below their own copy of this guide, highlighted to their section, at least a week before the workshop.

Role	Responsibilities	Who / How Many
Facilitator (MC)	Opens and closes the workshop, delivers the opening presentation, introduces the panel, and keeps the overall schedule on track. Can also serve as a moderator.	1 person
Moderator	Introduces each panelist, asks the prepared questions, keeps the panel discussion on time, and opens the floor for a few audience questions near the end. Can be the same person as the Facilitator.	1 person
Panelists	Speak from personal experience about using 1728 Sponsorship, both as a sponsee who has been guided through it and as a sponsor who has guided someone else through it. Send them their questions a week ahead so they can reflect, not memorize a script.	3 people
Resource Table Volunteer	Sets up and staffs a table with AA literature on the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts for anyone who wants to take a look or take a copy.	1 person
Timekeeper	Optional if the Facilitator or Moderator wants a dedicated person. Gives a quiet warning before each segment ends, so the panel does not run long.	1 person, or the Facilitator doubles up

Materials and Room Setup

- Sign-in sheet and name tags at the entrance
- Chairs arranged so the audience can see the panel table clearly, plus a small table and 3 chairs at the front for the panel
- Wall clock or visible timer for the Facilitator and Timekeeper

- Printed copies of the panel questions for the Moderator and each panelist
- Resource table: the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, the A.A. Service Manual and Twelve Concepts for World Service, and copies of the Twelve Concepts Illustrated and Twelve Traditions Illustrated pamphlets
- Notepad or index cards at each seat if you want to collect audience questions in writing
- Optional: a whiteboard or flip chart where the Facilitator can write out $12 \times 12 \times 12 = 1728$ during the opening

Run of Show

Time	Segment	Length	Lead
0:00 to 0:05	Welcome and Opening Frame	5 min	Facilitator
0:05 to 0:15	Presentation: What Is 1728 Sponsorship?	10 min	Facilitator
0:15 to 0:20	Introducing the Panel	5 min	Facilitator
0:20 to 0:45	Panel Discussion: Living 1728 Sponsorship	25 min	Moderator + 3 Panelists
0:45 to 0:53	Audience Q&A with the Panel	8 min	Moderator
0:53 to 1:00	Closing and Wrap-Up	7 min	Facilitator

Resources

- The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions
- The A.A. Service Manual / Twelve Concepts for World Service, 2021 to 2023: <https://onlineliterature.aa.org/Service-Manual-12-Concepts>
- Twelve Concepts Illustrated: <https://onlineliterature.aa.org/Twelve-Concepts-Illustrated>
- Twelve Traditions Illustrated: <https://onlineliterature.aa.org/12-Traditions-Illustrated>
- A.A.'s Legacy of Service: <https://onlineliterature.aa.org/A.A.-Legacy-of-Service>

Pre-Workshop Checklist

- Recruit 3 panelists with real experience using 1728 Sponsorship, ideally a mix of people who have been sponsored this way and people who sponsor others this way, at least 2 weeks out
- Confirm the Facilitator and the Moderator (these can be the same person)
- Send each panelist their questions 1 week ahead so they can reflect, not memorize a script
- Reserve the room and confirm seating for the audience, plus a small panel table up front
- Print this guide for the Facilitator and Moderator, and print the panel questions for each panelist
- Set up the resource table with the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, the Service Manual, and the Concepts and Traditions illustrated pamphlets
- Prepare a sign-in sheet and name tags if needed

- Consider writing out $12 \times 12 \times 12 = 1728$ somewhere visible for the opening segment

Workshop Format

Welcome and Opening Frame (0:00 to 0:05)

The facilitator opens with a short framing of the topic.

Welcome, everyone. Thank you for coming out tonight. I want to start with a number: seventeen twenty eight. If that number means nothing to you yet, good, that is exactly where we want to start.

Most of us came into this program and got a sponsor who walked us through the Twelve Steps. That is real, and it is essential, and it saves lives. But there is more to this program than the Steps alone. There are also the Twelve Traditions that hold our groups together, and the Twelve Concepts that hold our service structure together. Tonight we are going to talk about an approach some members call 1728 Sponsorship, a way of sponsoring that intentionally weaves all three of those together.

We will spend a few minutes on where that idea comes from and what it actually looks like in practice, and then we are going to hear from three members who have lived it, both as sponsees who have been guided through it and as sponsors who guide others through it now. After they talk, you will get a chance to ask them anything.

Before we get started, does anyone have questions about how tonight will run?

Presentation: What Is 1728 Sponsorship? (0:05 to 0:15)

The facilitator delivers the teaching segment below at a conversational pace.

So where does the number 1728 come from? It is simple arithmetic. Twelve Steps, twelve Traditions, twelve Concepts of World Service. Twelve times twelve times twelve equals seventeen hundred twenty eight. Some of our Class A trustees, the nonalcoholic members who serve on our General Service Board, started using that number during their own board discussions as a way to talk about applying all three sets of principles together instead of treating them as three separate subjects. The name stuck.

Here is why the number matters more than it sounds like it should. A lot of us get a sponsor, work the Steps, get sober, and stop there. We know the Traditions exist because somebody reads them at the start of a business meeting, and we have maybe heard the word Concepts once or twice without ever opening the Service Manual. 1728 Sponsorship says that is only a third of the program. Full sponsorship means a sponsor who can walk someone through the Steps for their personal recovery, who can explain why the Traditions protect the unity of a group, and who can introduce the Concepts so a sponsee understands how service actually works above the group level.

Think of it as AA's Three Legacies showing up in one relationship. Recovery, through the Twelve Steps. Unity, through the Twelve Traditions. Service, through the Twelve Concepts. A sponsor practicing 1728 Sponsorship does not need to be an expert in all three from day one. What matters more is being willing to learn alongside the sponsee, modeling the principles, and gradually introducing each piece as the sponsee is ready for it.

This usually happens in stages. Early on, sponsorship looks like it always has: working the Steps, taking calls, building a foundation in sobriety. Once someone has been through the Steps and has some solid time, a sponsor can start introducing the Traditions, not as dry rules but as the reason their group actually functions and stays unified. From there, for sponsees who are drawn to service, whether that means becoming a GSR or getting involved on a committee, the Concepts come in. Some groups even bring in a second person, a service sponsor, to handle that piece specifically, working alongside the primary sponsor rather than replacing them.

None of this is meant to overwhelm a newcomer. Nobody hands a brand new member the Service Manual in their first thirty days. It is a gradual introduction, matched to where the sponsee actually is.

To make this concrete, we have asked three members to join us up front who have real experience with this, both from the sponsee's side and the sponsor's side. Let's bring them up.

Introducing the Panel (0:15 to 0:20)

The facilitator or Moderator introduces the panel format and panelists.

We have asked three members to share their own experience with 1728 Sponsorship, what it has been like for them personally, both being sponsored this way and sponsoring someone else this way. This is not a lecture on the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts individually. It is these three talking about what it is actually like to live this approach out. I will turn it over to [Moderator name] to introduce them properly and get us started.

Panel Discussion: Living 1728 Sponsorship (0:20 to 0:45)

The moderator briefly introduces each panelist, then works through the questions below, giving each panelist a turn before moving to the next question. Leave room for panelists to build on each other's answers.

Coming to 1728 Sponsorship

- How did you first learn about 1728 Sponsorship, and what made you decide to actually use it instead of sponsoring, or being sponsored, through the Steps alone?
- What did you expect this approach to be like going in, and how has the reality been different?

Experience as a Sponsee

- What has it been like being sponsored this way, working through the Steps, then gradually the Traditions and the Concepts, instead of stopping once the Steps were done?
- Was there ever a point where it felt like too much, or where the pace needed to slow down? How did you and your sponsor handle that?
- What has this approach given you that you do not think you would have gotten from Step work alone?

Experience as a Sponsor

- How do you introduce this approach to a new sponsee without overwhelming them in their first months of sobriety?
- What does it actually look like in practice, how often do you meet, and what do you talk about beyond the Steps?
- All three of you, close us out: what would you say to a member who thinks 1728 Sponsorship sounds like too much extra work on top of just staying sober?

Add or remove questions as time permits.

Audience Q&A with the Panel (0:45 to 0:53)

The moderator invites all three panelists to stay at the front and takes a few questions from the audience for the group or for an individual panelist.

Closing and Wrap-Up (0:53 to 1:00)

Facilitator returns to close out the workshop.

Thank you to our panelists for being so generous with their experience tonight. That is exactly what this program is built on, one member handing something down to another.

Here is what I want you to take with you. Seventeen twenty eight is just a number, twelve times twelve times twelve. What it stands for is bigger: a sponsorship that does not stop at the Steps. If you sponsor someone, or if you have a sponsor, ask yourself where that relationship stands right now. Are you only working the Steps together? That is a good and necessary start. But is there room to grow into the Traditions, and eventually into the Concepts?

If you are further along in your own recovery and have never really studied the Traditions or opened the Service Manual, I would encourage you to pick one of the resources on the table tonight and start there. You do not have to become an expert. You just have to be willing to learn alongside the people you sponsor, the same way somebody was probably willing to learn alongside you.

A reminder that the resource table in the back has copies of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, the Service Manual and Twelve Concepts for World Service, and the illustrated pamphlets on the Traditions and Concepts. Thank you all for being here tonight. Let's close in the way we usually do.