

Thought Force Topic: Alateen Ideas and Questions from GRs

Background Info: Alateen is part of Al-Anon. It also has some very different requirements and needs our attention in a very special way. Sometimes we are so focused on the necessary day-to-day things we forget some of the more basic questions about our purpose, our willingness, our understanding and our recovery. Perhaps part of our problem with a diminishing Alateen presence is that we have somehow let our old ways of thinking ("I know what's best for you!") to creep into our ideas about Alateen.

Charge: Brainstorm ideas about approaching Alateen in new ways. What changes in the culture have happened in the last 20 years that perhaps we are not focusing on. Does the Al-Anon principle of the 3 A's apply here? (Awareness, Acceptance, Action).

Five KBDM Questions

- 1. What do we know about our membership's needs, wants and preferences that is relevant to this topic?**
 - We need direct input from teens on how best to help them
 - We need ways to build awareness in the Al-Anon membership as well as with teens who need Alateen
 - Older people may not be comfortable with using technology that is necessary for young people
 - We know we need this, we just don't know how best to do it

- 2. What do we know about our resources (finances, member participation, etc) that is relevant to this topic?**
 - There seems to be money and commitment, how best to direct it
 - Is it possible to get former Alateens involved?
 - We know we need more information about money and Alateens
 - We have to find a balance between paying for them and encouraging teens to work the 7th Tradition
 - How can we use our knowledge to help them reach their goals?

- 3. What do we know about the current realities (membership, culture, etc) and our fellowship's environment (technology, geography, demographic, etc) that is relevant to this topic?**
 - We don't know anything about Alateen
 - We need an information campaign within Al-Anon to tell us more facts about Alateens and Alateen meetings
 - We need Alateens to actually participate in Area service
 - What are some good ideas about how to be open to teens?
 - I believe there is a great disconnect between Al-Anons and Alateens.

- 4. What are the ethical implications of our choices – what are the pros and cons? Will our decision be consistent with our spiritual principles?**

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- There must be discussions of how to use Social Media and technology within the Traditions and Concepts
- Working together we may be able to help keep the teens secure while also allowing new ways of connecting to be worked out
- We know we will need help with the technological side
- Is it possible to get an Alateen to be a kind of Assistant Technology Coordinator?
- We know we need to keep them safe, but how do we do this within the fellowship?
- We have to remember “attraction v. promotion”
- We seem eager to fund all their activities but how does that comply with the 7th Tradition – for us and for them?

5. What do we wish we knew, but don't? (use the back if necessary)

- How would the teens like to have meetings?
- Do the judges, jails, schools, etc know about Al-Anon and Alateen?
- How does Alateen differ from Al-Anon?
- Do kids need permission to go to Alateen if it is in a school?
- How do teens sponsor each other?
- What are the similarities between our programs from the teen point of view?
- How can we get more detailed information about how Alateen works now?
- Can we encourage teens to talk about their service work rather than just tell how the family situation has been? Both are valuable.
- How do school meetings and regular meetings differ? How are they the same?
- How many AMIASes are also parents?
- What do the teens think about having their parents in the room?

Ideas and Questions for Alateen Coordinators

- Is it possible to create online meetings?
- Is it possible to create secret FB groups for our Area Alateens?
- What about phone (Conference Call) meetings?
- How can we hear directly from the teens about their experiences in Alateen so that we can better assist?
- Can we rename “Alateen Sponsor” to something like Alateen Meeting Facilitator because it is very confusing.
- What guidance can you give us about going into schools to create meetings?
- Can Alateens sit on Area Task Forces?
- Is there room for a difference of opinion in Alateen? I mean, what about inviting Alateens to come to Al-Anon meetings?