



# WORKSHEET 1: SELECTING FOUNDING MEMBERS

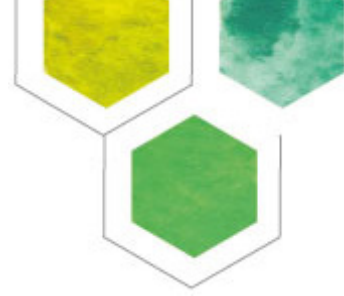


## **YOU START A COMMUNITY WITH A FOUNDATION OF ONLY A FEW MEMBERS.**

If you already have dedicated founding members in your community but haven't recognized them with such a title, then it's never too late to express appreciation for their commitment.




The following sets of questions can start a conversation about how to recognize ideal founding members. You can then choose whom to invite because they closely match what you seek.

*(Note that the unskilled choose members first and then the criteria.)*



## BEHAVIORS

**Consider these questions. Jot down notes as you brainstorm:**

-  If you already have a platform or group, what are the relevant activities of the founding members?
-  If you don't yet have a platform, what do your ideal founding members already do (in their free time or otherwise) related to the purpose of your organization?
-  Have they shown willingness to participate in conversations about founding a community?

## PERSONALITY

**Consider these questions. Jot down notes as you brainstorm:**

-  What are the ideal personalities you seek?

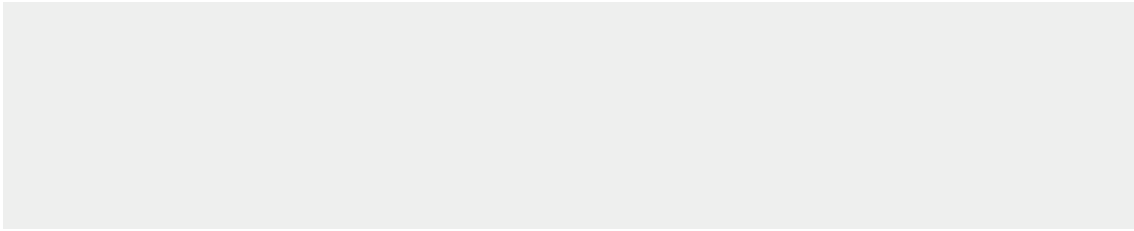
Some groups only seek hard-core competitors. Some seek patient contemplatives. Of course you can include many kinds of personalities.

# AVAILABILITY

**Consider this question. Jot down notes as you brainstorm:**

- What is the ideal availability for these founding members?  
*(Daily, weekly, monthly or less?)*
- When do they need to gather to participate in activities?

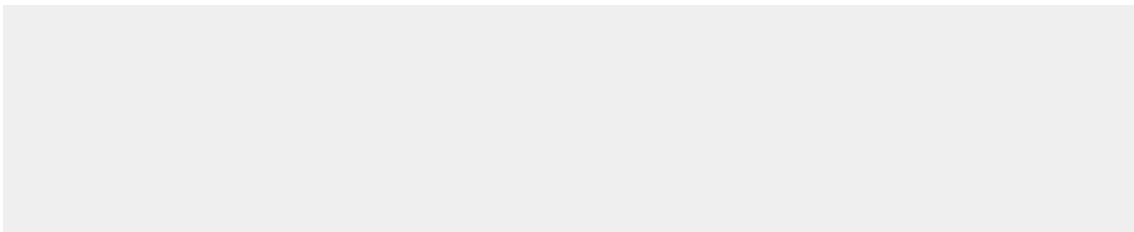
Availability is influenced by a lot of factors (e.g., caregiving, studies, and work commitments). Consider what level of availability will be required to meet member needs.



# INTERESTS

**Consider this question. Jot down notes as you brainstorm:**




- What are the ideal interests of your founding members?









## PURPOSE

**Consider these questions. Jot down notes as you brainstorm:**

-  Do they understand the community purpose?
-  Do they want to commit to supporting the purpose?
-  How are they willing to support the purpose?

## INVITATION & COMMITMENT

**Consider these questions. Jot down notes as you brainstorm:**

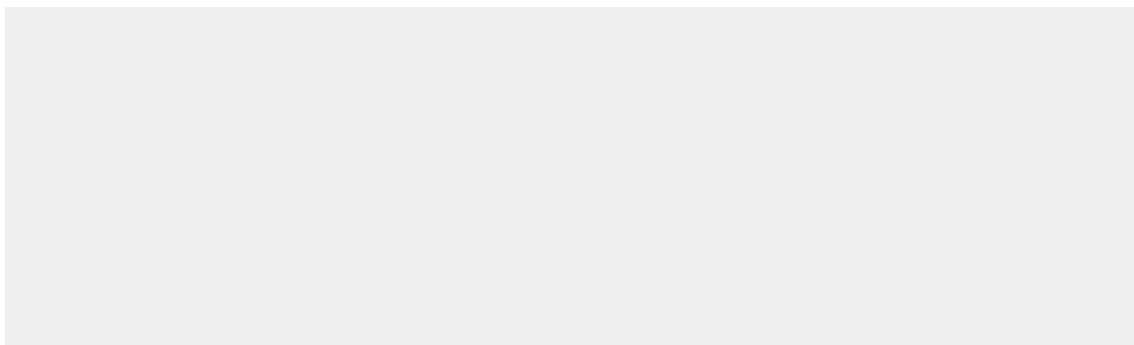
-  How will you invite them to join the founding members group?
-  What are the steps for joining?  
*You can consider an application, an initiation meeting, volunteer activity, or anything else.*
-  What do you expect these members to do as you start or reboot a community? *(Note: it must be in line with both their needs and yours.)*
-  How will you inform them of what is expected of them?

# CONSIDER THESE ACTIONS TO CONVENE YOUR FIRST FOUNDING MEMBERS:

Name up to ten people (*max*) who fit the description you seek.

Then consider additional people who fit much of the description and may serve as backup members.

**Write these down:**



## **Ensure that you follow at least these steps in connecting with prospective founding members:**

- 1** You contact prospective candidates to discuss a possible invitation for founding membership.
- 2** You and the prospective candidates engage in an individual orienting call or meeting to clarify expectations.
- 3** Invitees confirm commitment (*opt in*).
- 4** You send a formal invitation to each candidate, and it is accepted.

