



COLORADO SPRINGS diversity forum

EVERYBODY WELCOME

connect, include, engage

AFFILIATE OF THE PIKES PEAK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Food for Thought

Breaking Bread, Building Bridges

Join us for civil discourse among a diverse collection of individuals on controversial topics. Groups of 12 and a CSDF trained facilitator meet five times in 6 months over dinner.

Everybody is Welcome at our table!

FAQ's



What is Food for Thought: Breaking Bread, Building Bridges?

A program of the Colorado Springs Diversity Forum, Food for Thought is a short series of conversations among people from a variety of backgrounds and experience shared over dinner! Topics which tend to generate a variety of opinions are discussed with the support of ground rules and a neutral facilitator.

What is the goal of Food for Thought?

Civil discourse is the goal. There will be other outcomes such as delicious food, new insights, and friendship, but respectful, curious, non-judgemental conversation is the goal.

How does Food for Thought work?

Every quarter starting several groups commit to meeting 5 times in the following 6 months to engage in respectful dialog. At the end of the 6-month commitment groups can continue meeting without assigned facilitators or they can disband or join a new group.

Wasn't there an earlier version of this program back in the 90's?

Yes, in 1992 in response to the passage of Amendment 2, Dialog Dinners were introduced by Citizens Project. This successful program lasted over 10 years. Several groups continued meeting and there is at least one group that meets every month still – 18 years later.

What is the connection between Food for Thought and the Colorado Springs Diversity Forum?

Food for Thought is a program of the Diversity Forum whose mission is: Connect, Include, Engage. The Diversity Forum serves as a clearing house for diversity activities, and as a communication and education resource.

Who can participate in Food for Thought?

Anyone and everyone who is genuinely interested in other people's opinions, beliefs, experiences, and stories. Food for Thought is a forum for understanding with an emphasis on learning and listening. The objective is to know each other, rather than to change each other.

How are the groups selected?

The attached survey is completed by each individual. (Each survey is assigned a number and separated from the name to ensure privacy.) Groups of approximately 12 are formed using the survey data with the aim of creating diversity and a creative mix of ideas in the group. Couples or friends can elect to be in the same group.

Why are facilitators part of the program?

Trained facilitators are key to the success of small group dialogues. The facilitator guides the discussion, does not share his or her opinions (remains neutral), and sets a relaxed and welcoming tone where people feel comfortable sharing their ideas and opinions.



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What ground rules are used by the program to encourage successful discussions?

- Everyone gets a fair hearing.
- Seek first to understand, then to be understood.
- Share “air time.”
- If you are offended or uncomfortable, say so, and say why.
- It’s OK to disagree, but don’t personalize it; stick to the issue.
- Speak for yourself, not for others.
- One person speaks at a time.
- Personal stories stay in the group, unless we all agree that we can share them.
- We share responsibility for making the conversation productive

What are my obligations if I sign up?

If you choose to participate in the program, you agree to meet for a meal with your group 5 times in the following 6 months. Typically the meals are pot luck and usually occur in the homes of group members who volunteer to host, but these details are decided by the group. You agree to follow the ground rules and to engage in the experience.

What topics do the groups discuss?

Each group chooses their topic or topics. There will be topic suggestions and optional reading material available on subjects such as immigration, fair taxes, health care, gun control, legalization of marijuana, etc.

If you are interested in participating in these discussions we invite you to complete the application below which will provide us the information to build groups representing a dynamic cross-section of our community.

*While we cannot guarantee placement for every applicant for each dialogue session, we will make every effort to place you in the following session.

Questions? Contact: foodforthought@cospdiversityforum.org



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Application to Participate

This information is intended for use in establishing lively discussion groups with people from a variety of backgrounds. Your application will be assigned a number and your responses will be separated from your name to protect your privacy

Name:

Email address:

Phone:

Age: under 20 20's 30's 40's 50's over 60

Race / Ethnicity:

Asian/Pacific Islander

White/Caucasian

Black/African American

Mixed

Hispanic/Latino(a)

Other:

Native American

National Origin (Country):

Religion:

Religious Practice:

Daily

Weekly

Monthly

Other

Political Leaning: Left Moderate Right Other

Sexual Orientation: Straight LGBTIQ Other

Gender Identity: Man Woman Trans Queer Other

Disabilities: Yes No Accommodations required:

Education Completed: High School/GED Bachelors Masters Doctorate

Military: Active Retired Veteran Branch

Occupation: Employed Seeking Employment Retired

Household income: < \$50,000 \$50,000-\$100,000 \$100,000-\$200,000 > \$200,000

Zip Code:

How did you hear about this event?

Do you want to attend with a friend? Name:

What is your interest in participating?

Submit application to: Colorado Springs Diversity Forum PO Box 904 Colorado Springs, CO 80901
Fax: (719) 528-2820 Email: info@cospdiversityforum.org Questions phone: (719) 213-7375