

Guidelines for Becoming a Circle Leader

Circle Leader training classes and Circles of Troup County empower you to make your own plans and reach your own goals to move out of poverty with the encouragement of others. The Circles community supports you in building adequate relationships, resources and reasons for hope and a future. Everyone in the Circle benefits from the friendships that are formed.

Who can be a Circle Leader? Troup County residents who:

- are frustrated about just “getting by” and want to learn about ways to get ahead.
- are ready, willing and able to make changes to move out of poverty.
- have low resources, including financial resources.
- are able and willing to work and/or might benefit from job training.
- are willing to build new relationships which will provide support and connections.
- can commit to attend Thursday evening weekly meetings for two years.

The process includes 3 steps:

1. Turn in the attached application. You may drop it off or mail it to Circles of Troup County, 1220 Lafayette Parkway, LaGrange, GA 30241 or fax it to 706.883.1643.
2. Meet for an interview with Circles of Troup County team to see if Circles is a good fit for you. There are 10 openings for the spring/summer 2013 Circle leader training class.
3. You will be contacted by Circles staff to let you know the outcome of the interview.

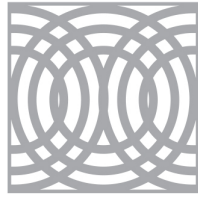
Steps to Becoming a Circle Leader:

1. Attend, participate and graduate from the 13-week Circle Leader Training classes that meet **every Thursday night for two hours**, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and include a **free meal, free childcare and sharing your knowledge**. You will learn the “hidden rules” of class, assess your own resources (not just money), and develop your plan to change your future.
2. Circle Leader Training graduates become a Circle Leader and make an 18-month commitment to weekly meetings.
3. Circle Leaders are matched with 2-4 Allies from the community. Allies are middle class volunteers who commit to being your friend and providing encouragement for 18 months.
4. Share your strengths, help address barriers to poverty in our community and give back to the community.

Circles of Troup County is NOT for you if any of these describe your current situation:

- *Being in crisis (for example, currently homeless, being evicted or living in a domestic violence situation).* Circles is not a crisis program and does not help with immediate, emergency needs.
- *Being on disability without any prospect of getting off disability or any capacity to earn extra money in addition to disability income.*
- *Addictions.* Circles participants must have at least 1 year of being clean/sober and strong goals for staying that way.
- *Mental health issues* that are untreated – you are struggling to function on a day-to-day basis.
- *One partner wants to join Circles but the other doesn't.* Circles does not work well when one spouse or significant other is not involved. Allies work with the whole family.

Circles of Troup County wants to partner with you to explore the causes of poverty and support you in developing a plan to increase your resources and have a more stable, secure future! For more information, contact Sherri Brown at 706.883.1687 or at sbrown@troupc.org or stop by the Circles office at the Mike Daniel Recreation Center, 1220 Lafayette Parkway.



Circle Leader Application

I have read and understand the attached ***Guidelines for Becoming a Circle Leader*** before filling out this application.

Application Information

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone number(s) _____

Email _____ Best way to contact you _____

If your contact information changes, it is your responsibility to inform the Circles office.

Married Single Other _____ Birthdate _____

Please list the names of all adults in your household:

Please list names and ages of children who live with you:

Will you need childcare for the Thursday evening meetings? Yes No

How did you hear about Circles of Troup County?

Do you have a driver's license? Yes No

Do you have a working vehicle? Yes No

Will you need transportation to weekly meetings? Yes No

In case we are unable to reach you, who is the best person to contact you?

Name _____ Relationship _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Education Information

Highest grade level completed: K-5 6-8 9-11 High School graduate GED

Associate's Degree Bachelor's Degree Master's Degree

Are you currently enrolled in school? Yes No

If yes, where?

Begin date: _____ Anticipated completion date: _____

Are you currently taking classes? Yes No

If no, why not?

Are you enrolled in a GED program? Yes No

Employment Information

Are you currently working full time working part-time not working

If not working, why not?

Have you worked in the last six months? Yes No

If yes, where?

If you are currently employed, complete the following:

Company name: _____ Hire date: _____

Your title: _____ Hourly/annual pay: _____

Check all sources of income and include the amount:

Unemployment \$ _____ TANF \$ _____ SSI \$ _____ Child support \$ _____

Check all public assistance/services your family currently receives:

TANF Food stamps AHA/Housing WIC Head Start
 Section 8/Rental assistance Utilities/energy assistance Vocational Rehab
 Free/reduced lunch Childcare assistance

Personal Information

Check the areas where you are experiencing difficulties or challenges:

Finding employment Maintaining employment
 Education/training Legal problems
 Budgeting Parenting
 Housing Transportation
 Friendships/relationships Isolation
 Drugs/alcohol Childcare
 Healthcare costs Other _____

Are you currently on parole or probation? (This will not automatically disqualify you from the program)

Yes No

If you agree with the following terms and conditions, initial each statement below.

_____ I am willing to participate in an interview with Circles of Troup County staff and admission committee.

_____ I understand it is my responsibility to arrange for childcare during my interview.

_____ I am willing to participate in a 13-week training course – from 5:30 to 7:30 Thursday evenings with a free meal and childcare provided.

_____ After successfully completing the 13-week Circle Leader Training course, I agree to continue meeting weekly and being placed in a “Circle” with Allies who have agreed to walk with me on my journey out of poverty for 18 months.

Return this completed form by mail to Circles of Troup County, 1220 Lafayette Pkwy., LaGrange, GA 30241 or drop it off at the Circles office at Mike Daniel Recreation Center, 1220 Lafayette Parkway.

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