

Montana State Prison AA Volunteers,

I'm excited that you are interested in becoming an AA volunteer for Montana State Prison. Over the years, I have found these meetings to be some of the most rewarding 12th Step work I have done in AA. It is truly a privilege to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to these men behind the walls.

Requirements for AA members wanting to serve as volunteers at MSP include: must be 18 years of age, cannot be a relative or victim of an inmate, must submit an application and sign a Background Check Authorization. They should have no Felony convictions in the past 5 years and should have no Misdemeanor convictions for violent, disorderly, domestic, or drug related charges in the past 3 years. MSP has no established sobriety requirement but the AA should have a firm grounding in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. AA volunteers cannot be on an inmate's visitor list and cannot correspond with the inmate.

The process for becoming a carded sponsor starts with filling out an MSP Volunteer Application Form. Applications should be submitted directly to:

Montana State Prison
Terrie Stefalo, RAC Coordinator
500 Conley Lake Rd
Deer Lodge, MT 59722

The application needs to be submitted to the prison 4-6 weeks in advance. Prison staff needs adequate time to conduct a background check and inform you whether you have been OK'ed to attend the orientation.

The orientation is a full-day training in Deer Lodge held quarterly. If you miss an orientation you will need to wait 3 months until the next orientation. When leaving the orientation, you will be given a packet of policies to read. You must then sign and return a form that verifies you have read the policies and are willing to abide by them. After completing this process you should call the prison to confirm that your name has been added to the Volunteer Sign-In List. Once you are on the list, you are free to attend meeting. You must attend at least one meeting annually to keep your name active on the volunteer list.

Our system is that meetings rotate weekly between the districts though others are welcome to attend whenever they can. The current schedule is:

1 st Saturday	Districts 61, 71
2 nd Saturday	District 72
3 rd Saturday	District 81
4 th Saturday	District 93, 72
5 th Saturday	District 72

Meetings are held weekly from 5:15-6:15 pm for both the Low Security Side and the Work Dorm. Meetings are held for the High Security inmates every other week after the Low Side meeting. Volunteers need to arrive between 4:45 and 5:00 to allow adequate time for processing. We can have as few as 2 and as many as 3-4 volunteers in each meeting.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me:

Lee G. Montana State Prison Liaison, 406.949.4618, lee@mtcorps.org