

Discussion Group Volunteer

Description:

Discussion groups are held by UVic Pride typically once a month. Topics for discussion will be determined in advance, and may include intersecting identities, challenging other forms of oppression within trans and queer spaces, experiences with education or healthcare, and creating safer spaces (as examples). Sometimes topics may be sensitive, and it is important that discussion groups keep in line with UVic Pride's Anti-Oppression and Anti-Racist and Safer Spaces policies. These groups are open to anyone who is interested, regardless of their personal identification, as long as they respect the aforementioned policies. The discussion groups usually take place in the Pride Centre, in the main room. The Discussion Group Volunteer will facilitate each discussion group, coordinate snacks and refreshments for the discussion group, and will work alongside safer spaces volunteers to create a safe discussion space.

The Discussion Group Volunteer will be joined by a Safer Spaces Volunteer for each discussion group.

Duties:

- Attend discussion groups once per month and facilitate the conversation. In the event that the volunteer is unable to attend they will alert the Office Coordinator, or designated Volunteer Coordinator.
- Arrive no later than 15 minutes before the expected start of the group to arrange snacks and greet participants, and stay for approximately 15 minutes afterwards, to make sure the room is left in good condition and anyone who has any questions or concerns after the discussion has a chance to discuss it with the facilitator.
- Facilitate the discussion to the best of their ability, making sure that the discussion starts with an acknowledgement of the territories, a round of names, going over safer spaces guidelines, and any other group guidelines that the group agrees upon.
- Have at least one or two questions ready to start discussion going, or to put forth if discussion lags. The facilitator is not expected to lead the conversation, nor be an expert in any of the discussion topics.
- Work with a Safer Spaces Volunteer to ensure that safer spaces are observed, and to step in if there are any concerns about the ability of the participants to participate due to safety or accessibility issues.
- Determine future topics in collaboration with the attendees of the discussion groups.
- Ensure that a schedule of discussion topics is ready at least two weeks in advance, and easily accessible on the website and in the Pride space.
- Attend all training provided at the beginning of the year. In addition, the volunteer must attend at least one volunteer meeting per semester, and strive to attend any re-training that would be valuable to its position.

Expected time commitment:

Approximately two hours per discussion group plus five hours of orientation and training.

Training Provided:

- Orientation to UVic Pride, Discussion Groups and Safer Spaces
- AOP Training
- Facilitation Training

Accountability and Guidance:

The Office Coordinator, or other designated Collective Coordinator, is the discussion group volunteer's first point of contact, for guidance and access to any additional training if necessary. The Office Coordinator will check in with the discussion group volunteer regularly to ensure that everything is going well, and to clarify any issues and questions.

Remuneration:

This is an unpaid volunteer position. However, all volunteers will receive a snack/drink during each discussion group the volunteer facilitates. Volunteer appreciation events will be held at least once per semester. Food will be supplied for all volunteers to meet and greet with each other and form connections.