

DISTRIBUTE TO: District Through National Leaders, Zone and Territory Offices
FROM: SGI-USA National Youth Leaders
SUBJECT: **August 2019 Discussion Meetings**

INTRODUCTION

The Youth Discussion Meetings held in July were a major success with many youth expressing their joy at how comfortable they felt and how much they were able to open up and create bonds on friendship with other youth. The main aspect of the meeting that the youth loved was the discussion groups, where they discussed the loneliness epidemic and

what action we can take to build deeper connections with others. The discussion groups consisted of 5-8 participants so that each person could fully share their thoughts on the topic. The small discussion groups and a relevant topic, in this case loneliness, were the primary elements that made these meetings so successful.

THE AUGUST DISCUSSION MEETING

Based on the success of the youth discussion meetings, we would like to incorporate elements of them into our monthly four divisional discussion meetings in the month of August. This means that during the discussion portion, we would break out into groups of 5-8 with one facilitator per group. For the topic of discussion, we will address "Transforming Our Environment." This is based on feedback we received from

the youth discussion meeting participants, the majority of whom expressed that their main concern is the environment. We would like to share with the participants in presentation format how Buddhist practice provides the solutions for transforming our environment. From there, we will go into discussion groups. Then come back together for encouragement from the central figure.

SAMPLE AGENDA

Gongyo	10 min
Welcome/Icebreaker	5 min
Faith Experience	5-7 min
Presentation on Transforming Our Environment and the Buddhist Principle of the Oneness of Life and Its Environment (by a youth if possible)	10 min
Discussion Groups (groups of 5-8 people, one facilitator per group of any division)	30 min
Q and A and Encouragement by Invited Leader (any division)	15-20 min

PLEASE DOWNLOAD POWERPOINT TO SEE NOTES ON HOW TO PRESENT THE TOPIC.

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