

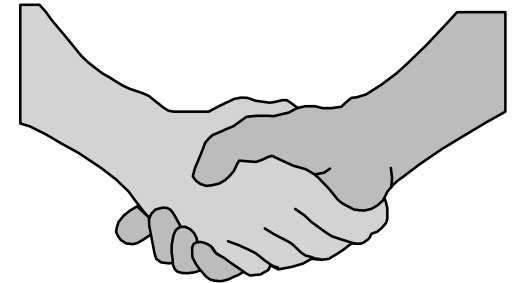
Bridge Procedure



The purpose of the AA Bridge Program is to connect the inmate AA member with Alcoholics Anonymous in their community upon their release. You are being asked to be that AA Bridge Volunteer. When a soon-to-be released AA inmate contacts us, we match them to a Bridge volunteer in their community. We contact you, get the okay, and then send the member's application to you. Your job is simple. You contact the AA inmate by mail (or by a visit where possible) and arrange to pick them up and take them to an AA meeting within 48 hours of their release. Your commitment is to take them to a minimum of three and a maximum of six meetings. During this time, you help them get acquainted, get phone numbers, and perhaps locate a sponsor or a home group. Please note, it is not intended that you become their sponsor, even temporarily. It is best if that word is not used in any way to describe your service. Bridge volunteers are "bridges" to the community AA. You introduce them to the others in recovery so that they have a broad healthy base and you are free and available to "bridge" again. Lastly, we request that Bridge Volunteers have an active relationship with their own sponsor and a minimum of one year sober and clean. If you are willing to be the hand of AA when an inmate reaches out for help, just complete the attached "Bridge Volunteer's Application".

1. The "Bridge Application Form" is made available to the *inside* AA members via visits by AA members to the inside meetings or by mail to the counselor on staff.
2. The *inside* AA member is eligible to apply if they have less than six months remaining to serve until their release.
3. The inmate fills in the application and mails it to the BTG coordinator's PO Box. The coordinator is responsible for processing and coordinating all bridges.
4. The Bridge coordinator notifies the *inside* AA member that the application has been received, that the process has been started, and whether there is a Bridge Volunteer available in their home area.
5. When there is an available Bridge Volunteer, the BTG coordinator forwards the inmate's application to the volunteer.
 - a. If the volunteer does not wish to use their own return address, the PO Box of the BTG coordinator can be used. The inmates letters will then be forwarded back to the volunteer.
 - b. If contact is not made within two weeks the volunteer should notify the BTG coordinator.
6. The Bridge Volunteer is to write to the applicant within two weeks, confirming the contact, and a willingness to act as a "bridge".
7. The volunteer will arrange to meet the applicant at an agreed time and place to help them attend their first few meetings. A minimum of three meetings and a maximum of six meetings completes the volunteer's task.
8. The volunteer then reports the results of the "bridge" to the coordinator. And is free to bridge again.

Bridge The Gap Corrections Program



An AA
Service Opportunity
Connecting Inside
AA Members
to the AA
Community