



# SAGE SOCIALS QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Thank you for your interest in hosting a SAGE Social! Our Socials are informal get-togethers to spark a meaningful discussion about our community's future, while sharing drinks, snacks, or dessert. These conversations are led by one of our trained volunteers and can be hosted by you at your home, community center, or place of worship. Our goal is to make your Social easy to host, thought-provoking, and inspiring. To get started, please review these questions and answers about hosting a Social.

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*In our busy lives, many of us rarely have a chance to pause and share our views about the challenges facing the future, or our ideas about how ... we can innovate new solutions to address those challenges. I appreciated how SAGE prompted that conversation, giving guests a chance to share their views, and then steering the discussion to highlight various ways to give forward in our community.*

*- Sandy Hansberger, SAGE Social Hostess*

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## What is SAGE?

SAGE is a Portland-based nonprofit organization that inspires people over fifty to give forward with their time, talent, and passion to enable younger and future generations to thrive. We motivate action and volunteerism through grassroots conversations and leadership development, so that older adults engage in and support causes and nonprofit programs that are vital to the needs of future generations.

## What happens at a Social?

A Social is led by a volunteer facilitator who invites guests to share a little background about their own lives, the opportunities they had when they were younger, and any concerns they have about the challenges facing younger and future generations. The group then explores solutions, including causes and initiatives that align with each guest's interests and concerns. At the close of the conversation, SAGE highlights specific and meaningful causes and volunteer opportunities with local nonprofits that work on issues of importance to future generations.

Each Social has its own energy and pace, and the format can be adapted to your group's interests. Our only expectation is that guests feel comfortable sharing their personal stories and views in a cordial and supportive atmosphere.

### What are your responsibilities as host?

As our host, you'll have three responsibilities:

- Get 8-15 people to your Social (we have a sample invitation that you can send by email or phone)
- Arrange for drinks, dessert, snacks, or whatever suits your style
- Introduce the facilitator, relax, and have fun

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*I came to the Social thinking: okay, what do you want me to do? Then I realized that SAGE isn't here to tell me what to do. They want me to figure that out, so that I can improve opportunities for the next generation.*

*- Karen Paladino, SAGE Social Guest*

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### How do you schedule a Social?

Please call SAGE to schedule a facilitator for your Social. We'll also send you a short toolkit with a planning checklist, sample agenda, and an invitation you can use for your guests. We suggest that you allow at least 3 weeks lead time between the time you send your invitations and the date of your Social. We also recommend that you schedule your Social Monday through Thursday from 7:00 to about 8:30pm. The Social itself usually lasts 1.5 hours. We are happy to facilitate Socials at other times and places.

### Does SAGE ask for volunteers or support?

Yes. At the end of the discussion, we'll provide a handout with meaningful volunteer opportunities that we've identified for guests to get involved with local nonprofits that work on issues of importance to future generations. We'll also ask guests to complete a short questionnaire to assess their interest in hosting a Social for a different group, to volunteer with SAGE, or to make a donation to support our work.

### Where can you learn more information?

For questions, please contact Steve Higgs at 971-717-6570 or [shiggs@wearesage.org](mailto:shiggs@wearesage.org).

**Thank you again for your interest in hosting a SAGE Social!**