

Effective Citizenship: The Leadership Role of Older Adults

Invitation to Host a SAGE Gathering

There is no doubt that much in the news shocks you and makes you feel like our communities are more polarized, and less able to solve long-term challenges. If you're over 50, you know it hasn't always been like this. We invite you to host a SAGE gathering where guests can share ideas, insights and actions for constructive engagement.

What does SAGE do?

SAGE is a nonprofit organization that engages older adults as leaders to take on the challenges facing younger and future generations. Like you, we're concerned about the challenges facing the future, and we know older adults have energy, experience and resources to make a difference.

What takes place at the event, who should come?

You can bring this conversation to your group, business or friends. We'll begin with a brief, engaging presentation about emerging trends that impact our democracy, such as political disengagement, distrust of the media, and contempt for people with different backgrounds and views. Guests will share their ideas about how older adults can foster dialogue across differences to help address these challenges. Young adults are welcome to attend and share their views too.

During the event, guests will also have an opportunity to raise issues in the community that they feel have not been fully discussed, and to share their thoughts about what is inhibiting meaningful discussion and ideas for moving forward. Good topics may include exchanging views on recent events in the news or discussing long-term issues such as the quality of local schools, distrust in local media, environmental issues, or new infrastructure projects. This conversation is brief and not meant to change hearts and minds, but to kindle an interest in meeting again to discuss working together on specific solutions.

What else should I know?

Each conversation has its own energy and pace, and the format can be adapted to your needs and interests. Our goal is that guests feel comfortable sharing their views in a respectful and supportive atmosphere. These events are led by SAGE facilitators and occur over a 2-hour program.

SAGE will not ask for money at the gathering. All we will ask is that guests share one concrete action they plan to take to promote effective citizenship. We will also share information about our mission and ask guests to complete a short questionnaire to help us improve our programming.

How can I learn more?

Contact Steve Higgs at SAGE to learn more about hosting a gathering at 971-717-6570 or shiggs@WeAreSage.org. Learn more about SAGE at www.WeAreSage.org.

What do I need to do as a host?

Hosts help with three responsibilities:

- Host a gathering for 10-20 people in your home, office, community center, or place of worship (SAGE can cover the cost of the venue and refreshments up to \$200)
- Help us identify invitees, including those with different views and backgrounds (depending on your preference, SAGE can send out the invitations and handle RSVPs, or you can do so as our host)
- Introduce facilitator, relax, have fun