

Town of Dryden Recreation Needs Assessment

Focus Group Script

Welcome and Introductions

Hello. I would like to welcome you to our meeting today and thank you for coming. My name is _____. I am a graduate student at SUNY Cortland and we have been asked to speak with members from the Dryden community about recreation programs and facilities. I will be your moderator today.

I would like to introduce you to these graduate students who will serve as assistant moderators for today's meeting. They are _____. They will assist with taking notes and writing your comments, as well as help with the questions.

The purpose of today's meeting is to gather some information from you about what you think are the most important needs for recreation activities and services in the Town of Dryden. We have invited you here so we can learn more about what you think and feel about recreation programs for adults, particularly *young[older]* adults. We will share this information with the Dryden Recreation Commission. The information you give us will help them make better, more informed decisions about what kinds of programs and services to offer Dryden residents, as well as facilities you use or would like to have.

I'd like to go around the room and ask you to introduce yourselves so we can learn a bit more about you. (Have each participant state their name and where in the Town of Dryden they are from.)

Thank you. During the meeting, I would first like to encourage you all to participate. We are here to listen. Everyone's opinion is very important to us. There are no right or wrong answers and we are just as interested in negative comments as we are positive comments. Sometimes negative comments are helpful, too. Remember, you have the right to leave at any time if you wish, with no consequences.

We would like to tape record the meeting today. The reason we would like to tape record is because we want to be sure to capture everybody's comments accurately and to be certain we won't miss anyone's comments. If at any time you would prefer that we not record a particular comment, please let me know and we can stop the recorder at that time. Is it all right with everyone that we use the tape recorder? Thank you. Because we are using the recorder I would like to ask everyone to please speak up and to only have one person speaking at a time.

I would also like to assure you that everything said here will be kept strictly confidential and no names will be attached to any of the comments that are included in any of the written reports. The meeting will last about an hour – until about 8:45 [7:30] depending on the amount of discussion. That covers all the particulars about the meeting. Before we start, does anyone have any questions?

Questions

1. What types of recreation activities do you enjoy?

Follow-ups: Where and how often do you participate in these activities?
Are there any local places that you frequent in order to recreate?
Do you find yourself traveling out of town to recreate?
If so, how often? For what? To where?

2. Are there any local facilities (that is, in the Town of Dryden) that you would like to see built, improved, or open to recreation?

3. Are there specific programs that you would like to see offered locally?

4. Do you consider yourself well informed about recreation opportunities offered locally?

Follow-ups: What is your main source of information regarding local recreation events and activities?

5. What are some of the things that have prevented you (or other adults like yourself) from recreating, limited or inhibited your participation, or caused you to stop participating in recreation activities?

Moderator prompts may include: time, money, desire, obligations, lack of facilities, lack of someone to participate with, lack of skill or knowledge, transportation issues...

6. What ideas do you have to remove some of these leisure barriers or constraints for *young [older]* adults? In other words, how could the Town of Dryden Recreation Commission make your recreation experiences better?

Additional Probes

“Would you explain further?”

“Could you give me an example of what you mean?”

“Could you explain what led you to that decision?”

Wrap-up of Discussion

This concludes our formal line of questions. Is there anything you think I should have asked you, but did not? Is there anything else anyone would like to say or add that has not already been mentioned today?

Closing

I would like to thank you all for coming today and sharing your thoughts with us. You have really given us some interesting information that will be very useful for developing better recreation programs and services for *young [older]* adults in the Town of Dryden. We will be compiling all your comments and sharing what we found with members of the Dryden Recreation Commission.

Again, thank you for your time.