

Beacon small safe Soiree Circles – Sign up now!

A soiree (swah-ray) is a small gathering for conversation in a private setting. For over 30 years, Beacon members have made new friends and deepened friendships in a type of soiree we have called Circle Suppers. Each Circle is semi-randomly assembled and the members take turns hosting each other. We are now inventing a new version that we call Soiree Circles. The new name reflects big changes to make the gatherings COVID-safe, even in our cool months.

How is a Soiree safer than an old Supper? (1) the soiree is outdoors only, (2) each soiree is limited to three households, and (3) each household brings its own food, perhaps transferring a few items before masks are removed, but not eating at one table. Your group may decide to gather with no meal at all.

How can we meet outdoors during the cool months of October through April? Option One: Drive 60-90 minutes to meet at a low-elevation (warm) site close to parking, such as Red Rock State Park, Posse Grounds Park, Chavez Crossing, Crescent Moon, Yavapai Vista, Chimney Rock, or Devil's Kitchen in Sedona... Deadhorse Ranch State Park or Riverfront Park in Cottonwood... Wupatki... the Bullpen on West Clear Creek... Option 2: If warm weather is forecast, meet in Buffalo Park, Thorpe Park, Bushmaster Park (all have ramadas you can reserve for free with the City), Willow Bend ramada (un-reservable, but usually open), Ft Tuthill (many ramadas), Kachina Wetlands, the large backyard of a host, or my backyard patio (a 17x23' ellipse with 10 chairs and great views, reservable through me). Because you can't trust the forecast, please have a low-elevation backup site, a backup date, or both.

Can our group include hiking, trail cleanup, or a game of "horse" basketball in a soiree? Yes! Indicate your preferences when you sign up.

What do I need to bring? (1) a mask (for moments when you are close to non-householders; once everyone is seated, remove them). (2) folding chairs if the site doesn't have seating. (3) (if a meal is part of your soiree) food and drink for your household.

Why bother? You want to laugh together and share stories. You want to deepen old friendships and make new friends who share your principles. You need better face-to-face connections than Zoom provides.

To join a Soiree Circle, use this [online form](#) by Tuesday October 20. You are agreeing to participate in three soirees over 6 months (by April 15 2021, Tax Day) and to organize one of the three. If you sign up, I will assign you to a circle of 3 households, and will ask one household to organize your first meeting. If you have questions, please email paul.beier@nau.edu or text me at (928) 699 3578 and I will call you back.