

Group Donations

A Quick Guide for SMART Recovery Facilitators

SMART Recovery meetings are free to attend, but they are not free to provide. Group donations help sustain meetings, facilitator support, training, participant resources, outreach, and access to SMART Recovery.

For in-person meetings, donations also help cover the direct expenses involved in running the meeting.

You do not have to become a fundraiser. Your role is to make the opportunity visible, explain why it matters, and let participants decide.



Make the invitation clear. Make the choice theirs.

A SMART-ALIGNED ASK



Empowerment

The invitation is ours. The decision is theirs.



Equity

Giving is optional. Belonging is not.



Inclusion

Ask with respect, encouragement, and compassion.



Integrity

Be honest about why donations matter and how funds are handled.



Accountability

Record and submit group funds responsibly.

A SIMPLE FORMULA

WHY + INVITATION + CHOICE

WHY

Connect giving to something real.

"SMART meetings are free, but making meetings, training, resources, and facilitator support available takes financial support."

INVITATION

Make the opportunity visible.

"If SMART has been useful to you and you'd like to help make it available to others, you're welcome to make a donation."

CHOICE

Protect autonomy and belonging.

"Giving is always optional. You are just as welcome here whether or not you donate."

You don't need to memorize these words exactly — the goal is to sound natural while keeping all three elements.

WHAT MIGHT I SAY?

SHORT

"SMART meetings are free, and donations help keep them available. If you're able and would like to support SMART, here's how."

WARM

"If SMART has been helpful to you, one way to help make it available to the next person is through a group donation. There's never any obligation to give."

A good ask does not have to be eloquent. It should be clear, inviting, and authentic.

In-Person Meetings: Cover Expenses First



In-person meetings have real operating expenses. Group donations should first help cover reasonable meeting costs, including:

- Rent or meeting-space fees
- Appropriate contributions to a host organization
- Flyers and outreach materials
- Printing worksheets or meeting handouts
- Participant handbooks
- Other reasonable expenses directly related to running the meeting

Cover legitimate meeting expenses first. Then submit the remaining group funds to SMART Recovery.

COLLECT → RECORD → SUBMIT

STEP 1 Collect

- Venmo
- Zelle
- A hat or envelope passed around the room
- Other approved methods

STEP 2 Record

Use the group ledger to track:

- Donations received
- Meeting expenses paid
- Funds submitted to SMART Recovery

STEP 3 Submit

After covering local meeting expenses, send the remaining group funds to SMART Recovery using an approved submission method.

[Insert approved SMART group-donation submission link / QR code here]



Important: Group donations submitted to SMART Recovery are not tax-deductible.

KEEP IT LOW-PRESSURE

AVOID

- Guilt or shame
- Comparisons with personal spending
- Spotlighting who gives or does not give
- Suggesting an expected amount
- Asking participants why they are not giving

Make the opportunity visible.

Make giving easy.

Protect choice.

BUILD A HEALTHY RHYTHM

INVITE →

APPRECIATE →

SHOW IMPACT →

INVITE AGAIN



MORE INFORMATION

For detailed guidance, current procedures, the group donation ledger, and additional resources, see the **Group Donations at SMART Recovery** article on the Knowledge Base.

support.smartrecovery.org/group-donations-at-smart-recovery

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Make the choice theirs.