

Craig Harrison's QUICK START GUIDE to Finding The Right Toastmasters Club... For YOU!

Congratulations, you've decided to visit a club, or even join one, sight unseen. Follow these steps to find and join the right club...for you!

BEFORE
YOU
JOIN

1. Look for clubs in your area near work or home, at the time and place most convenient to you on a day of the week that's most desirable. Find clubs by phone: 800-YWE-SPEAK. Find them online: www.Toastmasters.org/find
2. Call or e-mail in advance to confirm the location is current. Ask the contact person to meet you prior to the meeting and usher you in.
3. Ask them any questions you have on the phone prior to visiting.
4. Plan to arrive a few minutes early.
5. Remember, there's no pressure to speak as a guest. You should be treated as royalty. Be prepared to acknowledge where/how you found this club, if called upon at some point in the meeting.
6. During the meeting, ask yourself: do I like this location? Are the people in this club hospitable? Would I feel comfortable being in a group with these people? Does it feel like a safe environment for learning? Would I be comfortable sharing parts of my life and story with these people?
7. Be willing to share your impressions of the club at the end of the meeting honestly, if asked.
8. If you're not sure, consider either visiting *another* club in the area for comparison, or *revisiting* the same club next week, before joining. You can do both without obligation or guilt!

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9. When you find the right club and join, shortly thereafter you can ask for a mentor to be assigned to you. ([Read my article on Mentoring](#) first.)
 10. Set goals for yourself in the club. Reach out to others you feel comfortable with. Go public with your goals. In particular, your VP, Membership and VP, Education should work with you on a plan to achieve those goals.
 11. If you join based on Craig's e-zine or this article, please list me as your sponsor on your membership form: Craig Harrison, Lakeview Toastmasters, 2767-57.
 12. [Contact me](#) upon joining and I will give you 15-minutes of complimentary coaching on how to achieve your goals through Toastmasters.
 13. Remember, risk leads to reward. You are now among the friendliest, most supportive colleagues you could ever find. Try new experiences each week and YOU WILL GET BETTER EACH MEETING. Speaking, listening, evaluating, leading, laughing, helping each other out, each activity builds experience, confidence and new skills.
 14. Lastly, work both tracks (communication and leadership) and try an officer role for six months once you get comfortable. *You'll love it!*

AFTER
JOINING

TO FIND A CLUB: Click on www.Toastmasters.org/Find or call 1-800-YWESPEAK
To ANALYZE its recent performance, by its club # use George Marshall's site:
<http://marshalls.org/tmtools/>