



Prescott Area Intergroup: Serving Central Yavapai
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June 2025

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EDITORS NOTE: If you enjoy reading the articles, please consider submitting one also! We are always in need of a good story or article that you have read and that you would like to share. We just ask that you please keep it around 500 words, or less.

Please submit your contributions to the following email addresses:

lauralee@verizon.net & prescottaa@prescottaa.org

If you would like to receive the monthly newsletter in your inbox, simply send a message to prescottaa@prescottaa.org

It's a great way to stay connected!

STEP SIX: "Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character."

TRADITION SIX: "An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose"

CONCEPT SIX: "On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

FOUNDERS DAY

The beginning of Alcoholics Anonymous is considered June 10, 1935, the date recognized as Dr. Bob's last drink. Bill Wilson had already been sober for about six months when he met Dr. Robert Smith in Akron, Ohio, while on a business trip. Bill's trip to Akron had not gone as expected and he felt he was in danger of drinking. He sought out another drunk to speak to.

Dr. Bob had been attending Oxford Group meetings for about two years with no success to try to stop his drinking. Oxford Group members prayed with Dr. Bob for help with his drinking. When an Oxford Group member, Henrietta Seiberling received a call from Bill wanting to talk to another drinker, she thought he was the answer to their prayers.

Bill and Bob met at the Seiberling Estate in Akron on Mother's Day, 1935. Bill wanted to talk to another drunk in hopes that he would not drink. Dr. Bob did not want to meet Bill, but did so because his wife and Henrietta wanted him to meet Bill. They talked in private for about 5 hours after Bob said he could only stay 15 minutes. Dr. Bob said speaking to Bill was the first time he heard someone speak of alcoholism from experience. Dr. Bob did have one more drunk but finally sobered up on the 10th day of June in 1935. Both men never drank again.

So why are these men considered the founders? They both had continued sobriety till they died. They developed the program of recovery, Bill in New York and Dr. Bob in Akron. Bill left the Oxford group in 1937 and Dr. Bob stayed with them till December 1939, about 8 months after the book Alcoholics Anonymous was published. They both realized for them to survive and recover they must work with other alcoholics. These two men, both natives of Vermont, remained lifetime friends and partners in developing AA.

The first celebration of the beginning of Alcoholics Anonymous was held in Akron in 1941 where our Co-Founders both spoke. Celebrating 10 years in 1945 they both spoke again at the Mayflower Hotel Ballroom, the same hotel where Bill was staying when he reached out to Oxford Group members looking for an alcoholic to speak to.

Today AAs celebrate Founders Day in most locales. In 1965 the modern-day celebration started in Akron with 10,000 attending a three-day event at University of Akron. Yavapai County started having a District 14 Founders Day celebration in 2018 in Prescott Valley. This event rotates to the three sub-districts (Prescott, Prescott Valley, and Cottonwood) each year. Previous Prescott and Prescott Valley had separate Founders Day events.

This year, District 14 Founders Day will be celebrated at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Prescott Valley on Saturday June 7, starting at 10am. There will be talks on history, service, and a main speaker. This is a pot luck event. We will have lunch served by the district along with refreshments. There will be a sobriety countdown. Come early and help set up. Founders Day has always been my favorite AA event. Hope to see you there.

Dan S. District 14 Founders Day Committee member.



Entirely ready...

We know how our defects destroys,
Let's filter out all of the noise,
Without being modest,

It's time to exit the trap,
Can't wait - want it ASAP,
We know that we're flawed,

It takes quite a lot of fortitude,
Considering the debts we've accrued,
But to lighten the load,

It's scary and makes us unsteady,
Not a time to be trifle or petty,
Our higher power is here,

Lewis Q



Step Six and Character Defects: Not Gone, Not Forgotten, but Certainly Possible

When it comes to Step Six, “*Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character,*” I operated under the assumption that under the influence of my Higher Power, my character defects would be completely gone. In my experience, this has most certainly has not been the case. Let’s focus on the transitive verb, “re-move.” Although Merriam-Webster.com (accessed 5/12/25), identifies the (familiar) *fourth* definition of remove as “to get rid of: eliminate,” their *first* definition is “to change the location, position, station or residence of.” Uh oh—these darn things don’t simply go away; *they get moved around*.

Focusing on the first definition, the sixth step enables us to learn how to be “*entirely ready*” to have our character defects re-moved from the forefront of our attention to another (hopefully lesser) location. The statement, “any person capable of enough willingness and honesty to try repeatedly Step Six on all his faults—*without any reservations whatever*—has indeed come a long way spiritually, . . .” (12&12, p. 63) is powerful. Bill uses the word “repeatedly” on purpose. We must stay diligent in arresting these defects, which tend to re-surface. Re-moving or reducing them periodically is not only necessary, it requires an altogether greater level of willingness and honesty.

On the other hand, it's good to find that one major defect has been entirely removed, and that's the release achieved from the obsession to drink, which only our Higher Power can do (some willingness on our part wouldn't hurt, either). “. . . ‘when I became willing to clean house and then asked a Higher Power, God as I understood Him, to give me release, my obsession to drink vanished. It was lifted right out of me’” (12&12, p. 63). Thank God.

We’re trying to build a new character out of the ashes of the broken one we brought into the rooms, which requires, again, a new level of willingness. “The key words, ‘entirely ready’ underline the fact that we want to aim at the very best we know or can learn” (12&12, p. 65). It is important to recognize that although we actually like some of our defects (“We really love them.” p. 66), “we should not say to ourselves, ‘This [defect] I will *never* give up’” (p. 69).

Let’s remember that although acceptance of Step Six in all its ramifications seems like perfection, “Only Step One, where we made the 100 percent admission we were powerless over alcohol [read: abstinence], can be practiced with absolute perfection. The remaining eleven Steps state perfect ideals. They are the goals toward which we look, and the measuring sticks by which we estimate our progress. Seen in this light, Step Six is still difficult, but not at all impossible. The only urgent thing is that we make a beginning, and keep trying” (12&12, p. 68). Although character defects don’t vanish, we can be content

with patient improvement, utilizing our Higher Power's grace and our ever-increasing willingness.



Friday, July 25 — Sunday, July 27

YAVAPAI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

1100 E Sheldon St, Prescott, AZ 86301

- *AA Speaker Meetings*
- *Al-Anon Meetings and Speaker*
- *AA Longtimers Meeting*
- *Marathon Meetings and Workshops*
- *On-site Food and Entertainment*
- *Raffles, 50/50 and Baskets*
- *Potluck Saturday 10 am - 4 pm*
- *Sobriety Countdown*

REGISTER

\$30 PRE-PAID UNTIL 7/21/25

\$35 AT THE DOOR

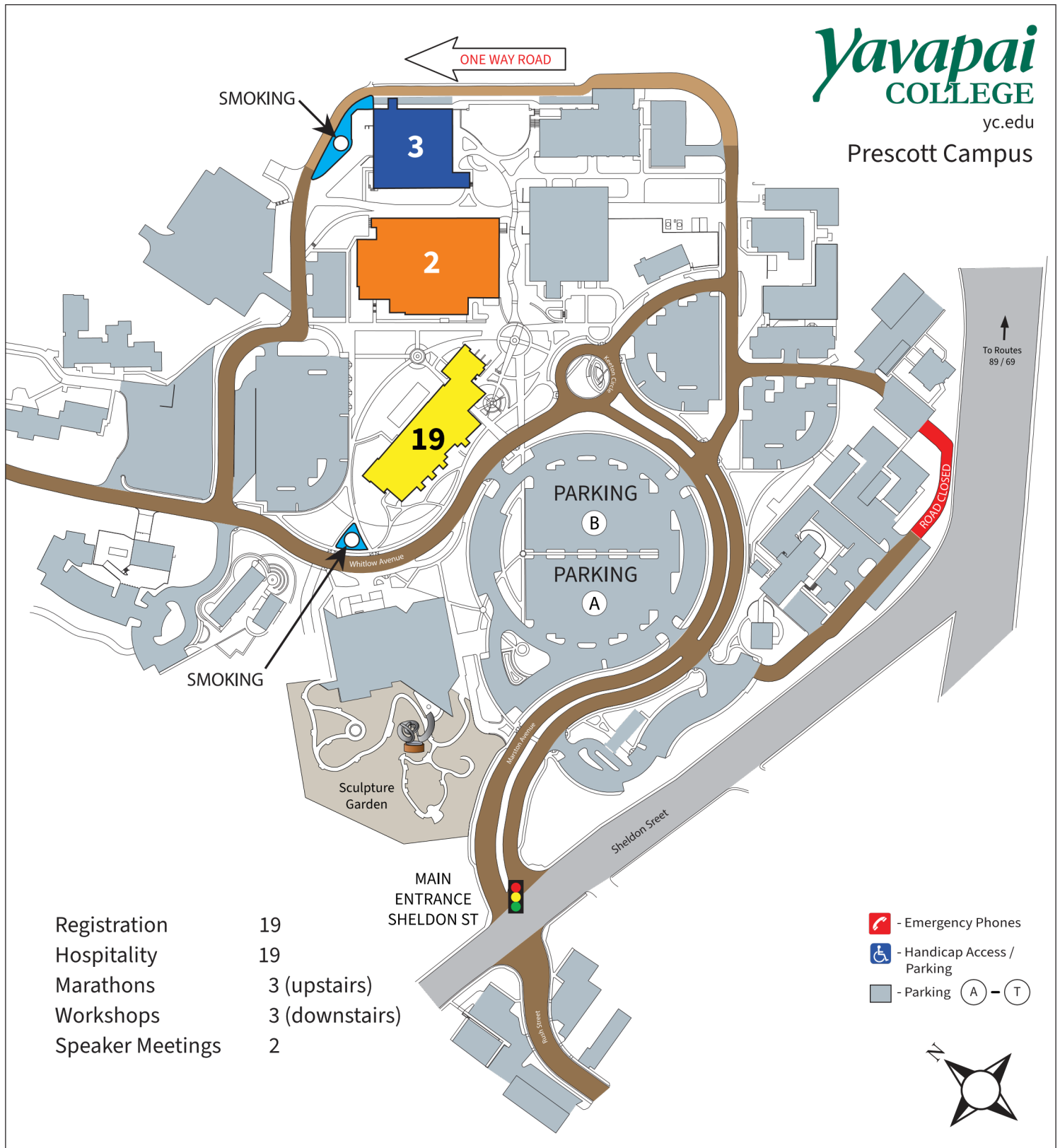


Visit www.prescottshoestringroundup.org/register to register or in person at the Prescott Area Intergroup Office — 240 S. Montezuma St., Suite 108 in Prescott.

MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE

Visit prescottshoestringroundup.org/merchandise.





Registration	19
Hospitality	19
Marathons	3 (upstairs)
Workshops	3 (downstairs)
Speaker Meetings	2

Smoking and vaping in designated areas only! No firearms! Only certified service animals allowed inside the building. No alcohol or other drug use or possession. No disorderly conduct. A \$50 citation will be given to anyone who violates the smoking policy by campus security. Other violations may result in expulsion from the campus. No food or beverages other than water allowed in the gymnasium.