

Bellingham Friends Meeting

Position description for: Sponsored FGC Gathering Attender

A Sponsored FGC Gathering Attender shall be appointed each year following recruitment and recommendation by the Nominating Committee and approval by the Meeting for Business, preferably in March.

Qualifications: The Friend appointed to this position shall be either an adult or a young Friend of high-school age, and shall be someone whose participation in the meeting has been substantial and reasonably regular for a minimum of six months prior to appointment. Preference shall be given to a Friend who has never attended the Gathering or who has not attended during the last five years, but this is not an absolute criterion. More important is the Nominating Committee's discernment that the Friend to be recommended is someone who will definitely follow through by registering for and attending the Gathering, will benefit from the experience of participating in the Gathering, and will bring his or her enrichment from that experience back to the Meeting in the form of both the expected report and his or her better grounding as a Friend. A Friend who has held this position may not be recommended again within five years unless there are no other willing and qualified candidates available.

Expectations: The Sponsored Gathering Attender is expected to (1) notify the Nominating Committee Clerk immediately if a conflict arises that will prevent him/her from attending the Gathering in the year of appointment; or otherwise, (2) register to attend the Gathering within 30 days of appointment and make appropriate travel arrangements; (3) request reimbursement of Gathering fees and travel costs from the BFM Treasurer, accompanied by reasonable written documentation of the amounts paid or expected to be paid; (4) attend the FGC Gathering of Friends and participate in a substantial portion of the program, including a morning workshop; and (5) present a report to the meeting during a Second Hour opportunity scheduled with the Ministry and Counsel Committee, which Second Hour may be shared with other Friends (such as other Gathering attenders and/or Friends who attended NPYM's Annual Session that year). A written report, for publication in Metamorphosis, is also strongly encouraged.

Reimbursement: The Sponsored Gathering Attender may request and shall receive reimbursement for Gathering fees and/or travel costs involved in attending the Gathering, both for him/herself and for other family members who also attend the same Gathering, up to a maximum of \$1000. (Any exception to this maximum must be approved in advance by the Finance Committee.) If payment is needed before the expenses have been paid by the Sponsored Gathering Attender (or other family member, if applicable), that Friend shall provide the Treasurer with appropriate documentation of the amount(s), such as an invoice or quotation. Otherwise, the Treasurer shall be given copies of appropriate receipts.

The Sponsored Gathering Attender may choose whether or not to also request financial aid from FGC. The likelihood of FGC granting such aid is enhanced by (1) the fact of BFM's also providing financial assistance, and (2) registration for the Gathering during the first 10 days after registration opens, normally April 1. Receipt of such additional financial aid may enable the Attender to bring additional family members to the Gathering, and/or possibly to request reimbursement from BFM for less than the annual maximum, thus leaving more funds available for use by others in the future.

Assistance with information concerning the Gathering in general, financial aid available from FGC, workshop and housing choices, and other aspects of the Gathering program, is available upon request from the FGC Contact Person in the Meeting. Such information is also available online at fgcquaker.org/gathering.