
Curriculum

8:30 – 8:45 Welcome & Agenda

- 8:30 Welcome, introduction of presenters; introduce yourself to someone you don't know.
- 8:35 Overview of Day's Sessions (DFA State Leaders, DFA MeetUp Hosts, and Root Camp™ Training Mentors).

8:45 – 10:15 STATE LEADERS: How to Support the 435 CD Strategy by Becoming a Better DFA State Leader *Led by Tom Hughes, DFA Executive Director*

Welcome

- 8:45 Introduction of 435 Congressional District strategy and review of State Leaders' Session Agenda.

DFA Overview

- 8:50 Rocketship DFA
- 8:55 Meetup, endorsements, and trainings
- 9:00 Coalition groups
- 9:10 Head to breakouts (divided regionally; Texans disperse to all regions)

Breakout Challenge: How do we strengthen our groups and our coalition?

- 9:15 Breakouts begin — review agenda, identify facilitator, scribe, time-keeper, reporter, and open-session topic sheet
- 9:20 Brainstorm: How do we strengthen our groups and our coalition? What works best for your organization? (brainstorm only, no discussion)
- 9:30 Discussion
- 9:50 Resolution: 3–5 best practices (in rank order), plus one innovation
- 10:00 Return to general session
- 10:05 Reports from reporters (2 minutes each)
- 10:15 Evaluation/celebration
- 10:20 END

10:15 – 10:30 Break

10:30 – 12:00 MEETUP HOSTS: Transitioning from Meetup; How to Be a Better MeetUp Host. Set up to feel like a real Meetup, demonstrating (modeling) how to do Meetups more effectively. *Led by Chris Warshaw, DFA MeetUp Director*

- 10:30 Introduction
 - Overview of MeetUp Session Agenda
- 10:35 Meetup: The National Story
 - 470 meetup groups
 - 50 states, District of Columbia, and 4 foreign countries
 - 271 congressional districts

- 10:45 Meetup Challenges
- Forming sustainable long-term organizations that are local political forces
 - Expanding existing Meetup groups
 - Building new Meetup groups
- 10:55 Breakout Groups (2 groups per topic)
- Each breakout group will identify:
 - 5–10 best practices for Meetup leaders
 - 3 recommendations for how DFA can do a better job supporting Meetup groups
 - Each group should identify a facilitator, scribe, time-keeper, and reporter who will describe the breakout group’s conclusions to the larger group.
 - 1) Forming sustainable long-term organizations that are local political forces
 - What makes a great Meetup group tick?
 - What are the best ways to form a steering group?
 - How can Meetup groups work with other organizations?
 - How can a Meetup group build an action-oriented agenda?
 - 2) Expanding existing Meetup groups
 - What are the best ways to build a Meetup group through social networks?
 - What are the best ways to invite people from other groups to Meetup?
 - How can a Meetup group use flyers and leaflets to expand the group?
 - What are good online best practices?
 - 3) Building new Meetup groups
 - What have been the most effective ways to form new groups?
 - What kinds of support can existing Meetup groups give to help new groups thrive?
 - What can DFA do to help facilitate the creation of new Meetup groups?
 - What can state coalition groups do to help facilitate the creation of new Meetup groups?
- 11:20 Breakout groups reconvene
- 11:23 The reporter from each breakout group reports their 5–10 best practices and 3 recommendations for DFA (2 minutes per group)
- 11:35 General discussion to reach a consensus of best practices and recommendations for each topic
- 11:50 Description of “what next?” with reports (to be compiled by DFA and emailed as starter kits to all Meetup organizers)
- 11:55 Evaluation distribution / pluses & deltas
- 12:00 End / Break / Collect evaluations

12:00 – 1:15 Lunch (You’ll have a map of close-by restaurants; use this time to network and get to know one another.)

1:30 – 2:45 MENTORING: How to Be a Root Camp™ Training Mentor, an Introduction, by Pam Paul and Ralph Miller, Grassroots for America

- 1:30 Overview of Root Camp™ Mentoring Session Agenda; Introduction of Root Camp™ Mentors, Presenters and Supervisors
- 1:35 Root Camp™ empowerment: saving activists time, money, and energy by not reinventing the wheel. Root Camp™, how it has evolved, how it affects everyone, and where it is headed; cultivating an organic activist collaborative; designing a grassroots educational and training cooperative. Overview of www.rootcamp.us and Root Camp Intranet; networking national grassroots training efforts; staying in touch and in tune with what other organizations are doing in regard to training across the country; maintaining identities through connection to the process; national map directory.
- 2:05 Tailoring Root Camp™ to local communities and local team development. How to build local training teams, curriculum writing; adding or using resources and tools from the Root Camp™ resource kit; participating in dialogue, developing and facilitating online trainings, engaging activists through networking among trainers, issue groups, supporters, resources, and tools, sharing of best practices, and promoting the network in a manner designed to build a national training community.
- 2:25 Supporting Root Camp™ logistics: promotion package; fee structure and Root Camp™ Mentor Certification: process, quality, and networking control and standards. creation of an Editorial Board to set parameters for the Root Camp™ Courseware Certification Program and Talent Bank.
- 2:40 Invitation to sign up and attend Root Camp™ Core Training 101 (Sunday)

2:45 – 3:00 Wrap-Up: “The DemocracyFest Challenge: *You Can Do It!*”

Engaging the group to use the weekend to build networks, discuss the subjects covered during the day, and move forward the progressive democratic agenda through 2006 and toward 2008. Our goal is nothing short of empowerment.