

Why Come To The PVS Training Conference?

You are a Visitor, spending time visiting one-on-one with prisoners. During that time, nothing matters beyond listening and being present to the person seated before you. Yet you may sense that your presence and your wisdom are fortified by the example of those who have proceeded you.

You may have entered the prison alone. But you are not alone. Even inside the visiting room, you are connected to PVS, an amazing network of Visitors like yourself, who do what you do, giving their time to visit with society's forgotten.

You may be very new at this. Or you may be a well-seasoned Visitor. Either way, there are others like you who have faced similar questions and challenges when visiting, wondering whether you did or said the right thing. They, like you, have likely felt perplexed and frustrated over the prisoner's struggles and wished you could do more to help.

Your visit does not end when the prisoner leaves and you go home. The questions and concerns and the joys all persist, but you may not feel like you can share them. Should you connect to the PVS network for support? Should you reach out to a fellow Visitor, your Local Coordinator, call the office, or simply submit your concern in your report?

How does this situation fit within the policy guidelines? What is the best way to respond to or to elevate a concern? Many PVS Visitors have come to realize that sharing experiences is the essence of PVS. People in the PVS network are ready to listen to each other's concerns and guidance; in fact, it's one of the best ways to become a better Visitor.

Nowhere is this culture of sharing more visible and more treasured than when we come together for the PVS Training Conference. Meeting with fellow Visitors, sharing our stories and learning some deeper wisdom about our common passion inspires and energizes us, and reaffirms our commitment to the mission of PVS.

Is it a commitment of time and money? It is. We do our best to keep costs as low as possible, but above all, please trust us – it will be time and money well spent. You will have the opportunity to make lifelong friends and learn lifetime lessons while honing your visiting skills.

And don't worry – there will be fun and humor mixed in as well! Please join us as we “*Reaffirm our Commitment*” to incarcerated people and to PVS.

We hope to see you in November!

The PVS Training Team

Denise Carpenter, Emily Cashell-DeSilva, Molly Clifford, Jan and Ken Cottrell, Eileen Gilkenson, David Poundstone, Patty Ressler-Billion, and Dan Struble

P.S. Enjoy your PVS Post-It notes – use them to plan your visit to Lexington!

