

Talking With Potential PVS Volunteers: A Simple Conversation Checklist

Your role: Share your experience, open the door, and connect people to PVS staff.

You don't need to convince or recruit on the spot!

Before the Conversation

- ☐ I remind myself: I'm sharing, not selling
- ☐ I plan to speak from my own experience
- ☐ I know where to send someone who wants more information

How to Start

- ☐ I mention PVS naturally (when asked about volunteering or service)
- ☐ I use plain, simple language

What to Share

- ☐ Why I chose to volunteer
- ☐ What surprised me about the experience
- ☐ What I find meaningful about visiting
- ☐ That support and training are built into the program

What to Emphasize

- ☐ PVS provides all training, you don't need special skills - just be reliable and open minded
- ☐ Visitors are trained and supported by PVS staff
- ☐ Emotional support and boundaries are taken seriously
- ☐ Time commitment is clear and discussed upfront

What NOT to Do

- ☐ I don't overshare personal or confidential details
- ☐ I don't pressure someone to volunteer
- ☐ I don't try to answer every logistical question since it may differ prison to prison. Let staff handle the in depth interviews.

When Someone Is Interested

- ☐ I invite them to an info session or next step
- ☐ I share PVS contact info or materials
- ☐ I encourage them to speak directly with PVS staff