

2023 Alateen Conference
Report for AWSC
January 28, 2023

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the 2023 Alateen Conference Chair on behalf of District 3. We have already seen great enthusiasm building for the conference and planning is underway to make this conference one of memories, recovery, fun and growth for our Alateens.

After listening to the successes and challenges of last year's conference, first thoughts were to move to a more centrally located facility (central to our current active Alateen Groups) and to move the date a little earlier. Bid request were made to several facilities for the first weekend of August and we have found one that seems to meet the needs quite well and check required boxes. Pending a final decision after a site visit the week after AWSC, we plan to proceed with getting contract signed with Deer Haven Retreat and Conference Center (<http://www.deerhaven.cc/>) in Paisley, FL. This facility provides us with various housing options (cabins, dorms and hotel style rooms), swimming pool, lake with fishing and canoeing, full meal service or an option to do our own meals in a very modern industrial style kitchen, meeting space, campfire area and beautiful nature trails. The facility is 70 acres in eth Ocala National Forest. It is a one-to-three-hour drive from our groups.

We held our first planning committee meeting on January 21, 2023, with ten AMIAS attending. We had great discussions and brainstorming about the conference. We have agreed that we like the idea of preparing our own meals will save significantly on cost, provide more flexibility to our schedule and provide for meals that we believe everyone will enjoy compared to standard "camp food".

This year's conference will include some new activities such as Hug Circles, Complement Circles, Unconditional Love, Mail Service and God Box Ceremony as well as the traditional meetings and workshops. We also want include speaker meetings with Alateen Speakers and an AI-Anon and AA Speaker. There will of course be the s'mores campfire, raffle baskets and free activity time.

The convention theme and song will be selected at the next meeting of the committee after getting suggestions from the Alateen Groups. We will then begin advertising and get the registration packets sent out so look for those by March. It is our goal to give plenty of time for everyone to be able to get excited about the conference and to get it solid on calendars.

The very generous support from the Area will cover the expenses for the Alateens and AMIAS to attend the conference unless we are super successful in creating the enthusiasm of more than fifty members, but there are still some opportunities that Districts may want to consider if you are looking for a way to support the conference. We will be providing water bottles with the conference theme imprinted on them which will be a cost estimate of \$180.00 (these will be used to conserve disposable cups as well as being a keepsake) and t-shirts with the conference theme imprinted at a cost estimate of under \$300 (will depend on registration

numbers). Would your District be interested in sponsoring one of these items? We will also be providing each Alateen with a conference goodie bag to include a piece of Alateen literature, journaling materials (pad and writing utensil) as well as miscellaneous love gifts. Would your District be interested in providing some literature or love gifts? Please reach out and let me know if you are interested in knowing more or if you would like to commit to any type of support for the conference.

We may also be looking for a nurse who is an AMIAS or willing to become certified who can be the conference nurse to handle managing medications and responding to any medical needs that may arise, however there are a couple of asks going out to specific members already.

Thank you to Carmen for passing along the information form the 2022 conference which has bene very helpful in kick starting 2023. Again, thank you all for the privilege to serve as the 2023 Alateen Conference Chair and to be able to work with so many enthusiastic and very willing members compassionate about supporting our Alateens.

If you have any questions, comments, thoughts, suggestions, or ideas, please feel free to share then with me at the AWSC meeting or via text, call or email. I look forward to months ahead!

In gratitude and service,

Phil G.

2023 Alateen Conference Chair

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