

WiP THEME: *Welcome, Getting to Know Each Other, Setting Our Sights*

The first meeting can be about getting to know each other. As host, you might also want to use this time to get the group invested in the programming and using their ideas and networks to set up events for the upcoming themes. Here are a few options for how to structure your first meeting.

1. Host a discussion. Some sample questions you can ask your group:

- What brought you to this Women inPower meeting?
- What would make our time together worthwhile for you? What are you hoping to get out of our meetings together?
- What is one skill or area of expertise you could speak about or share with the group over the course of the year?
- Who do you know who might be able to come as a guest speaker for our group?

2. Work through an activity together. For this first meeting, we recommend a mix of unstructured socializing and also a prompt or question that the group is working to address.

- Cover a few tables with big sheets of paper. Set out markers and crayons or other writing supplies. The more colorful, the better.
- Invite everyone to have snacks and talk at a table to answer the question, “What is Power”? Encourage everyone to write and draw and work out their ideas together on the paper on the tables.
- After 15 to 30 minutes (depending on the group size and amount of time you have), each table should choose one person to stay at the table, and everyone else should find a different table (ideally with different people).
- Continue the discussion and developing the ideas of, “What is power?”. Add another question: Who has power in our community?
- Mix again and add the question: As women leaders, how can we make power work for us?
- Come back to the large group and share and talk about what was written and created on the paper tablecloths. Note themes and learnings.

3. Invite a speaker to talk about his/her experience. Some ideas for people you can ask:

- CEO or female-elected official or community leader; ideally someone who can speak about the power of community and supporting each other in a network like Women inPower.
- Ask your chapter for ideas—do they know anyone who is a compelling speaker or storyteller? Pool your connections and identify someone you may already know.

How did it go? Did you find something worked particularly well or not so well? Did you follow the script or make up your own? What did your group learn? Share your experiences in the Women inPower Facebook group so we can all learn from each other.