

ABOUT CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

11th Principle: Consent! strives to maintain an interactive and lighthearted presence at Transformus. One of our main activities is our interactive space, **Choose Your Own Adventure!**

Choose Your Own Adventure is staffed by volunteers designated Gifters/Consent Educators. These volunteers will provide all the wonderful consensual gifting experiences while teaching folks about consensual interaction. This is an opportunity for community members to bring their unique talents to share with others, including but not limited to :

- Snacks
- Drinks
- Physical contact (hugs, massage, cuddles, reiki, etc)
- Kinky fun (caning, flogging, violet wand, rope, etc)*

Gifters are expected to implement consent education before and during their gifting (more about this will be discussed at the training). Volunteers are in no way required to provide a gift to someone just because they want it. For example, you may not feel comfortable caning someone who appears to be intoxicated. That is *your decision*; consent goes both ways!

Gifters are asked to attend a brief training at the event prior to their shift.

** Explicitly sexual acts are wonderful when consensual, but they are not permitted in this space. Please arrange those encounters on your own time. Also be mindful of heavy kink activities in all-ages spaces.*

TRAINING CURRICULUM

CYOA Shift Lead Training

Choose Your Own Adventure shift leads are the first contact a participant may have with our space. They are responsible for welcoming participants to the space, explaining what we're up to, and setting ground rules. After that, the volunteer will take on the primary consent education with their gift.

Basic Responsibilities

- Update the front booth's chalkboard throughout your shift so participants know what's being offered. This will help attract passersby as well as inform others that there might be an activity they don't want to see.
- Welcome participants. Introduce 11th Principle, the space, and yourself. Example:
"Welcome to Choose Your Own Adventure, a space for consensual interaction! We're teaching about consent through participation and demonstration. Can I interest you in anything we're currently offering?"

- Make sure everyone knows the three steps to consensual interaction: Communication, Negotiation, and Participation! The gifter will be primarily responsible for this, but you can help make sure it's being touched on.

Other Responsibilities

- Training volunteers who did not attend the full training. (See Abridged Training, below.)
- Handing out swag, interacting with participants and answering questions.
- Overseeing the activities of the space, making sure everything is kosher.

Procedures for Certain Situations

What signs do you look for when deciding someone is too intoxicated to consent?

An intoxicated person is a person who is:

- Slurring words
- Having difficulty standing upright
- Having trouble remembering things minute to minute
- Very clearly under the influence of a mind-altering substance
- Tells you they are intoxicated

Encourage these participants to come back when they're sober. You have to be at least mostly clear-headed to consent!

When do you step in to interfere with something you perceive to be not 100% consensual?

How do you spot peer pressure/a non-enthusiastic "yes"?

For the purposes of our space, a "maybe" is a No *unless the participant explicitly says they want to try*. At this moment the gifter should use their best judgment to give an introduction to the gift being given (a light spank, a gentle massage).

Trust that our volunteers are like-minded and well-versed in the consent process. Step in only if you feel the volunteer needs help.

Consent Educator Training

Choose Your Own Adventure: What it is

Choose Your Own Adventure is a space where participants can experience a variety of things in a totally consensual manner while learning about consent! Offerings will vary depending on who is present and what they are offering.

Choose Your Own Adventure: What it's not

If all goes as planned, our Choose Your Own Adventure space will be many things to many different people. A few things it is not:

- A Bar. At least not a typical one. If a participant wants a drink and doesn't want to go through the steps to a consensual encounter, they don't get their drink.
- An All You Can Eat Buffet. Volunteers who bring snacks are likely bringing limited

quantities and are using their gifts to educate folks about consent, not just hand out random snacks to whoever is hungry.

- A Substance Dispensary. Illegal substances are not offered here, period.
- A Hook-Up Connection. Volunteers are not offering explicitly sexual encounters from our space. If you want to hook up with one of our volunteers, y'all can arrange that on your own time. (Take some swag with you!)
- A space to process previous sexual assault or abuse. Outlining your boundaries and triggers are a part of the exchange, but we ask that folks leave details about traumatic histories of the conversation so as not to trigger other participants.

Overview

Gifters for our Choose Your Own Adventure space act as consent educators while providing what they have brought to share: gifts, skills, etc. The purpose is not only to give consensual experiences but also to provide experiential education that participants can take with them as they move around the event.

Gifters are already pros at what they've brought to offer, so our training will focus mostly on the consent education aspect of the gig.

Instead of lecturing, participants and gifters alike get first-hand practice in a consensual encounter while enjoying the experience they are sharing together. We've identified a few basic steps to keeping it consensual:

1. **Communicate!** Introduce what you're offering, disclose details and encourage questions
2. **Negotiate!** Establishing boundaries and come to a mutual agreement. Check in with yourself too.
3. **Participate!** Gift away!
4. Debrief, may involve after care as necessary.

Checking in and reaffirming boundaries may need to happen during the exchange depending on the gift being given.

Role Play Scenario

CYOA volunteer as the Giver and Team Lead as the potential recipient, using their gift as an example.

Discussion.

Triggers

What is a Trigger?

A Trigger is something that sets someone off emotionally, often to relive a traumatic experience. A trigger may be a word, phrase, or feeling, and may cause anxiety, crying, panic attacks, or anger.

How to avoid triggering someone

In general, the best way to avoid triggering someone is to ask if they have any triggers. For massage, for example, you might ask simply, "Is there any place you are uncomfortable with me touching?" Or, in a kink or sexual encounter, "Are there words or phrases I should avoid?"

What to do if you trigger someone by accident

Very few people know all of their trigger words or phrases. Triggers sometimes stay buried in someone's consciousness until they're brought out. If you trigger someone by accident, it is your responsibility first and foremost to make sure they're okay. This may involve debrief, aftercare, or just helping them find a trusted friend to help. Apologize but let them take the lead on how they need to be cared for. If they don't want to be touched, don't hug them! Sometimes the best thing you can do is be there with an open ear. Sanctuary is always available for intense emotional responses to triggers.

Special Circumstances

Your gift may pose a hazard to participants that you've yet to even consider. Let's talk about some of those.

- Food gifters: Note common allergens! Dairy, gluten, nuts, eggs. Disclose all animal ingredients and remember that some vegans don't eat honey.
- Drink gifters: Certain kinds of alcohol do not agree with some people. Disclose *all* your ingredients. And *please* ensure the receiver of any alcoholic beverage is 21+ (different events have different ways of denoting participants under the age of 21).
- Triggers from touch and/or words (ask before any encounter involving touch).
- Be especially mindful at all-ages events. Food and drink gifts should only be given to children with the full knowledge and consent of the guardian.

Shift Leads have been trained to deny entry to anyone who appears to be beyond their ability to consent due to intoxication. If they miss something and you note that someone is visibly impaired, please let a shift lead know. For our purposes here, impairment from intoxicating substances may be marked by:

- Slurring words
- Difficulty standing upright
- Having trouble remembering things minute to minute
- Very clearly under the influence of a mind-altering substance
- They tell you they are intoxicated

Final Thoughts

- A shift lead will be present during all hours to help introduce what you're providing. They may pause or halt any encounter at any time if something doesn't seem kosher. This is done at their discretion.
- Watch for under 21 wristbands when providing alcoholic beverages.

- Providing illegal substances is a big no in our space.
- Explicitly sexual acts are wonderful when consensual, but they are not permitted in this area. Please arrange those encounters on your own time.

Consent Educator Training - Abridged

We may have one or more walk-up volunteers who were unable to attend training prior to their shifts. If this happens, shift leads can take a few minutes to implement an abridged training.

Job Description Overview

Gifters for our CYOA space act as consent educators while providing what they have brought to share: gifts, skills, etc. The purpose is not only to give consensual experiences but also to provide experiential education that participants can take with them as they move around the event.

The Steps to Consensual Gifting:

1. Communicate! Introduce what you're offering, disclose details and encourage questions
2. Negotiate! Establishing boundaries and come to a mutual agreement. Check in with yourself too.
3. Participate! Gift and enjoy.
4. Debrief, may involve after care as necessary.

Checking in and reaffirming boundaries may need to happen during the exchange depending on the gift being given.

Role Play Scenario

CYOA volunteer as the Giver and Team Lead as the potential recipient, using their gift as an example. Make sure you touch on all steps.

Final Thoughts

Remind gifters about special circumstances that may be associated with their gift.

- Food gifters: Note common allergens! Dairy, gluten, nuts, eggs. Disclose all animal ingredients and remember that some vegans don't eat honey.
- Drink gifters: Certain kinds of alcohol do not agree with some people. Disclose *all* your ingredients.
- Triggers from touch and/or words (ask before any encounter involving touch)

Overview of how we define intoxication:

- Slurring words
- Difficulty standing upright
- Having trouble remembering things minute to minute

- Very clearly under the influence of a mind-altering substance
- They tell you they are intoxicated

Lastly...

- A shift lead will be present during all hours to help introduce what you're providing. They may pause or halt any encounter at any time if something doesn't seem kosher. This is done at their discretion.
- Watch for under 21 wristbands when providing alcoholic beverages.
- Providing illegal substances is a big **no** in this space.
- Explicitly sexual acts are wonderful when consensual, but they are not permitted in this area. Please arrange those encounters on your own time.
- A shift lead reserves the right to deny experiences to anyone. You also reserve this right. If you do not want to provide something to a specific person, you are in no way obligated to do so.