

Bone Health and Osteoporosis Foundation Support Group Program “How To”

Please contact Lisa Tumminello at ltumminello@bonehealthandosteoporosis.org for more information.

Welcome! We are grateful that you are interested in the Bone Health and Osteoporosis Foundation (BHOFF) Support Group Program. BHOFF is the leading consumer and community-focused health organization dedicated to the prevention of osteoporosis and broken bones, the promotion of strong bones for life and the reduction of human suffering through programs of public and clinician awareness, education, advocacy and research.

BHOFF strives to assist the millions of people affected by osteoporosis by establishing a unified, national network of Support Groups that is committed to providing people with the opportunity to obtain accurate, timely information in an environment where they are both comfortable and understood. BHOFF's Support Group Program was created to assist individuals interested in starting osteoporosis Support Groups for patients, family members and friends. By joining BHOFF's network of Support Groups, you can make a difference in your community by helping those with this debilitating disease.

BHOFF Support Group Benefits

1. The credibility of affiliation with the Bone Health and Osteoporosis Foundation
2. Referrals and publicity to generate new membership in your group
3. A copy of BHOFF's comprehensive Support Group Manual
4. Access to cutting-edge information that has been vetted by experts in the field of osteoporosis and bone health
5. A series of bi-monthly educational materials to share with your members
6. Opportunity to participate in two annual conference calls and interact with BHOFF's network of Support Group leaders

Criteria for Becoming an BHOFF Support Group

There is no charge to become a BHOFF-affiliated Support Group. All BHOFF Support Groups must:

- Have at least one Support Group leader and at least five members
- Identify a qualified healthcare professional to serve as a Medical Advisor
- At the minimum, convene four times per year

Medical Advisor Responsibilities

- Discussing and approving all meeting topics, speakers, programs and non-BHOFF materials distributed at meetings
- Referring patients and others to Support Group meetings
- Serving as a liaison between the group and community contacts, such as physicians, physical therapists, dietitians, nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, etc.
- Acting as the Support Group's spokesperson with media and/or similar opportunities