Toastmasters Prison Clubs, D58
Hello!

I am Jodie Randisi
I am the coordinator for prison clubs in D58.
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WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE
What’s involved in mentoring a prison club?
What’s so great about Toastmaster prison clubs?

Let’s start with the massive amount of appreciation you will receive.
Thank you for coming. I appreciate all the help. We’re so glad to have your professional advice. Thanks for empowering our group.
I’ve been exposed to a world of expression I didn’t know existed. Toastmasters is an opportunity to channel our experiences into something positive.
We ended up in prison because we didn’t know how to communicate non-violently. No other program has benefited me more than Toastmasters.
Toastmasters has the potential to turn a pessimist into an optimist, a follower into a leader, and a prisoner into an entrepreneur.
What should you expect?

A Toastmasters prison club is no ordinary club.
Prison Practicalities
Do not bring these items with you into prison.

Cell phones, cameras, cash, scissors, or anything that could be used as a weapon.

Also, do not bring or share anything with personal information on it, such as a business card.
Do bring **your photo ID.**

Clear containers only. All volunteers will be patted down by an officer and anything you bring will be searched.
Please note the following.

- You will be asked to submit your social security number, date of birth, sex, and race for a background check 2 weeks prior to your first visit.
- The prison chaplain will meet with you for an informative orientation session.
- Toastmasters is a non-religious activity. Do not proselytize.
If...

• If an inmate asks you to take something, do not receive it.
• If an inmate asks you to get them something that is not a Toastmaster resource, do not do it.
• If you’re curious, don’t ask, “What are you in for?”
What to Expect at a Toastmaster Prison Club Meeting
Be Patient

Many inmates are dealing with anger and impulse control issues. The act of preparing a speech helps them work through these problems.
Inmates transfer to other facilities with little or no notice. Agendas will be amended constantly, and membership will fluctuate.
Be Flexible

Toastmasters helps inmates discover then uncover their voice. Meetings will shift from soul-baring stories to Table Topics silliness.
Resources are limited. Access to computers, for example.

Call the prison if you have concerns about possible cancellation due to weather or lockdown.
Life in prison is not easy. Be mindful of their situation. Inmates can appear sluggish due to a lack of rest, but they should be encouraged to participate anyway.
Because...
What it Takes to Start and Sustain a Toastmaster Prison Club
Two Mentors, One Prison Liaison & Several Volunteers

**Two long-term mentors**
A newly chartered club involves a commitment from two Toastmasters for six months. Mentors are responsible for ordering and providing club supplies.

**Demo Meeting**
Most inmates have had no exposure to Toastmasters. They will need to see how a meeting is run from start to finish.

**Club Status**
Open club status allows mentors to become members. One mentor should be elected Secretary or Treasurer so that he or she can submit awards and update the club roster online—unless the prison liaison is willing to take on the responsibility.
Funding Memberships

**Sponsors**
Although some inmates can pay their dues themselves, most cannot. Finding sponsors to pay for membership dues is a large part of a mentor’s duties. D58 has collected and set aside funds for charter clubs only.

**How Much?**
One-time fee of $20 to join, then $45 for 6 months, and $90 for a year. Keep in mind that inmates can be transferred to a prison that doesn’t have a club. It may be best to pay for 6 months at a time.

**Payments**
As treasurer, I set up a gofundme.com campaign so family and friends on the outside can support an inmate (or the club in general) by adding a note when they donate. This is the easiest and fastest method to process applications.
Fundraising is essential to ensure club success.

While the District leadership will promote the benefits of prison clubs at its events, it is up to the individual club and its mentors to come up with a financial plan. Club officers will be sponsored first if they don’t have their own funds.
Three sources of funding.

- Inmate, inmate’s friends and family.
- District 58 Initial funds for 20 members at the start of their charter.
- Donations from sponsors, such as prison staff, local or regional businesses, or individuals.
Finding Members

Some kind of vetting or audition should take place in order to ensure a solid group. **You will rely on the Associate Warden (or prison liaison person) to find members at first.** After that, guests are welcome and should fill out a questionnaire regarding their level of interest and ability to pay dues.

Keeping Members

The president will eventually be comfortable setting the tone, but until then, mentors should be the most enthusiastic people in the room. Greet everyone with genuine eye contact and a handshake. FYI...Muslims won’t shake a woman’s hand. Properly address members as Toastmaster Davis, or Mr. Davis, not Brother Davis.
What are my next steps?

I want to be part of a Toastmasters prison club.
Identify the **correctional institute** and stir up their desire to participate.

**OBEY THE RULES**
You’re a guest.

**WARDENS**
If they aren’t committed, your club will suffer.

**SERVICE**
You are there to serve them, not the other way around.

**LOCAL PRESS**
Pink magazine, 5/17

**NATIONAL PRESS**
Second Chances article, TM magazine, 7/17

**MEDIA**
Share links to News videos.

**FOX28**
WSAV HHI TV

Link to: [FOX28 News](https://www.fox28news.com)
And if they aren’t convinced, give them the evidence and a little bit of data.

A study conducted in Louisiana that monitored a hundred inmates who Toastmasters and were released back into society over a five year span.

Statistically, 70% of them should have been re-arrested.

No one who completed the Toastmasters educational programming came back to prison.
U.S. Prison Population: 2.3 M

That number has grown 10X since the 1970s

70% of America's prisoners are nonviolent offenders
2,300,000

Whoa! That’s a big number!
Reducing Recidivism

A four-year college degree at the University of Washington costs the same as one-year of incarceration, according to DOC fiscal reports.

100%

That’s the goal! Triumph with Toastmasters!
Our process is easy

Find two mentors and establish a relationship with the facility.

Set up a demo meeting and agree on a vetting process.

Appoint officers and register your charter with District 58 and TMI!
Thanks!

Any questions?

You can find me at
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Credits

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:
Presentation template by SlidesCarnival