

UTAH CITIZEN SUMMIT CONVERSATION GUIDE

What is the Utah Citizen Summit?

On November 12th we* are *coming together in Utah* for a Citizens Summit to:

- Celebrate what we have already accomplished in Utah with civility, compassion, inclusiveness and collaboration as opposed to the incivility and partisan conflict that are becoming so dominant in America.
- Model how to bridge political and other divides through civil conversation that will lead to creative problem solving and hence to lay the groundwork in Utah and elsewhere in 2017 for more progress to be made on identified issues and possible solutions.
- Give us a fresh start in America as to what is possible in this regard.

We Need Your Help in Preparing for the Summit. Please Have a Conversation

Leading up to the Summit we invite you and your family, friends, community, classmates, or group of any sort in Utah to help us prepare for the Summit by being in conversation together around a topic that you feel is a difficult one but deeply important to Utah and the Nation. *Following is a conversation guide that we would ask you to follow if you would like to participate with us.*

We Want to Include the Fruits of your Conversation

If you decide to have a conversation in support of the Summit, please let us know, and we will follow up with you and harvest your conversation for the Summit on November 12. **If you are joining with us** :

- Hold your conversation and send us a report of one page or less on your conversation by no later than October 21st (but the earlier the better).
- Email your report to: Jacob@VillageSquareUtah.org with a contact name, email address and telephone number.
- We will get back to you for a half hour or less telephone conversation no later than November 4th, which will help us harvest your conversation

We Want You to Join Us on November 12th (see attached agenda for details on time and place)

- Join us in the morning in a well facilitated conversation to harvest the fruits of your and other conversations from around Utah to identify common topics, themes and possible solutions.
- Join us in the afternoon to listen to Utah Leaders further harvest these dialogues and to discuss how we might come together to have a new start in Utah and America in dealing with challenging issues more civilly, compassionately, inclusively and collaboratively
- Join us in an evening celebration of what we have accomplished in Utah and might further dream of doing.

The Utah Citizens Summit is sponsored by the Utah Civil and Compassionate Communities initiative, whose co-chairs are Utah Lieutenant Governor, Spencer Cox; Salt Lake County Mayor, Ben McAdams; and Salt Lake City Mayor, Jackie Biskupski. who serve together with a highly diverse advisory board comprised of approximately 40 Utahans. We have received co-sponsoring support from four national and ten Utah organizations. The Utah Village Square is the primary partner for Citizen Summit conversations and dialogues.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

How to Engage in a Conversation for Coming Together in Utah and America

Come together as a group and choose a topic for a conversation

1. Choose a topic that your group has passion for as an important issue for Utah and America. This should involve an issue that needs to be resolved for the benefit of society. Examples are:
 - How should we deal with immigration in America?
 - How do we improve relations between law enforcement and the community?
 - Under what conditions, if any, should a person with a terminal condition and low quality of life be able to legally end their life with medical assistance?
 - How should we protect the quality of life of animals raised for food, if at all?
 - Should gay and lesbian clubs be allowed in public high schools?
2. It is important that there are initially deep disagreements in your group regarding the topic selected. If you don't have much disagreement within the group enrich your group with people who hold different opinions for this conversation or choose a different topic.

Come together in mutually respectful conversation

1. Each person in the group should have a chance to explain briefly how they feel and what they believe about the issue and should be encouraged to tell a personal story if they have one which has influenced their opinion.
2. Everyone in the group should agree to listen respectfully, and initial questions are purely for purposes of clarification to better understand a person's opinions and feelings, which questions should be expressed with civility and never to criticize or demean.

If you do not have time for an extended conversation this may be all the further that you get in the conversation. Learning how to respectfully listen and understand is the important first step in a meaningful and effective civil conversation.

Come together to find common ground

1. Explore if there are any shared values in the group relating to the topic of discussion. An example would be "no child should have to go to school in fear of physical or emotional abuse", in a conversation about gay and lesbian clubs. When people find that they have some shared values related to a topic, many more possibilities are opened up to finding ways to find agreement on topics when you identify common ground such as shared values.
2. In this context explore if there is any agreement on approaches to making progress on this topic that would help bring Utah and America together on that issue.
3. If your group has a trained facilitator that person may explore various approaches for finding common ground and achieving significant agreement on how to move forward.

Please send us a summary of your Conversation

Please note the instructions above for sending us a summary of your conversation

Come together with other Utahns on Saturday November 12

Please join us on the morning of Saturday, November 12 to come together with with other Utahns in order to connect with others who have explored similar topics and to help harvest collective wisdom relating to a range of topics that have arisen around the State in order to create an agenda for getting things done in 2017. Please join us in the afternoon to observe a distinguished panel consider how we can get a fresh start in America by being more civil, compassionate, inclusive, collaborative and productive. Come join us in the evening to celebrate how we have already done such work in Utah and America including presenting several awards, and listening to leading national speakers.

See the Agenda and other information for the Utah Citizen Summit at: www.UtahCitizenSummit.org.