



GUIDE TO STARTING YOUR RHS Book Club

Starting a local RHS Book Club is another fantastic way to experience the **Fun, Friendship, Freedom** and **Fulfillment** that comes from being involved with sister Red Hatters. And if you're worried it's difficult, don't fret--starting one is simple!

- 1. Get together a Core Group and decide how many can participate** - This will most likely be determined by where the group will meet and how much space you will have. You don't want your group to be too small because like most get-togethers, not everyone can come all the time and you need enough people to hold a lively discussion.
- 2. Set a regular meeting time** - Finding dates that work for everyone is important, so before announcing your new book club, agree on the day and time. For example, the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. This makes it easier for those you are inviting to know if they can make that commitment or not.
- 3. Gather your fellow Hatters together** - Send out a fun invitation to your fellow Hatters to join your book club. This is a wonderful opportunity to have a monthly scheduled time to come together for food, fun and great discussion!
- 4. Set the ground "rules"** - Once you have your book club set, it's a good idea to use your first get-together to establish the group's ground rules. These could include who hosts, who leads the discussions and what kind of commitment is expected. It's good to gather everyone's opinion so they feel a part of the decisions being made.
- 5. Start meeting** - Go ahead and set dates for the first several meetings and jump right in! Food helps the discussion roll and makes the meeting more fun. Choose your menu around the theme or location of the book. You may decide to do appetizers, a full meal or dessert. If you are going to restaurants, your group may pick a different one each month. Your RHS Book Club will assist by providing recipes, menus, and resources for specialty items.
- 6. Keep inviting people** - make certain that new members are invited and re-invite those who have previously declined as their circumstances may have changed.

