



It's Time to GOGI POWER UP: Expansion of the GOGI Culture

AS SHARED BY COACH TAYLOR, LEAD VOLUNTEER FOR GOGI

GOGI OFFERS PRISON PROGRAMS

Since 2002 Getting Out by Going In (GOGI) has offered programs to prisons and prisoners, emerging as experts in rehabilitation and risk reduction. GOGI will continue to offer programs for decades to come with expansion into digital and online learning in the future.

GOGI's value to society is unquestionable with a reputation built upon an unwavering dedication to supporting the highest potential within every individual, regardless of prior choices. As the positive voice of prisoners, GOGI understands the unique vulnerabilities and strengths of individuals who wake up behind bars questioning if they'll ever earn their freedom.

THE SOLUTION TO THE BIGGER PROBLEM

Increasing numbers of prisoners are embracing the GOGI Tools for Positive Decision-Making as a means to increase positive decision-making. As a result, those who once caused harm are emerging as the solution, addressing challenges within their communities with skill and dedication.

When putting the GOGI's Tools for Positive Decision-Making into daily practice, these incarcerated individuals report an increased sense of internal freedom. When individuals experience this sense of freedom they seem to harm others less. When they harm others less, they tend to observe similarities rather than differences in those around them and they gain insight and compassion for the human experience.

Created by and for prisoners, the GOGI Tools for Positive Decision Making provide seemingly complex concepts of positive social interaction into the evolving culture called living The GOGI Way. GOGI's simple solution to the age-old problem of humans not getting along is to empower individuals with simple tools for positive decision-making and the value of living a life of service.

CERTIFICATE COURSES

GOGI offers physical workbooks and courses that generate certificates from the GOGI organization for topics such as Anger Management, Release Prep, Parenting, Insight Development and others.

GOGI will continue to find ways to generate donor support and grant funding to make these physical materials available to the maximum number of individuals. GOGI will also continue to supplement purchases of materials with donor-funded videos, workshops, and additional donor-paid materials.

Formal programming is the backbone of GOGI, as the course materials presents the in-depth concepts of the GOGI Tools.



FREE GOGI FOR EVERYONE

Logically, GOGI cannot become a solution for the world's prison population if GOGI is solely a program reliant upon the completion of workbooks and issuance of certificates. To include the 2 million US prisoners and 6 million prisoners worldwide, GOGI must offer additional ways to share the GOGI Tools for Positive Decision Making.

With current expansion rates being the best predictor of future growth, the GOGI participant numbers will be so great that the simple concepts will find their way into educational systems, permitting children to benefit from learning tools with which they can better direct their lives.

Getting GOGI concepts to children will happen immediately after successes beyond the walls of prison are undeniable. For the GOGI Tools to help children, GOGI's growth into community is the next evolution. Within communities our formerly incarcerated GOGI leaders are becoming the solution, offering their volunteerism as their ultimate freedom. They are requesting that GOGI become a vehicle of their lifelong service.

GOGI IS FREED TO BE OF SERVICE

Ever since the first group of prisoners began creating GOGI Tools in 2002, GOGI has been locked away behind the walls of Federal, State, and County prisons and jails. During that time, GOGI has been consistently requested as an alternative to an 8-foot cell, even by court judges who realized many individuals simply did not have the tools with which to make positive decisions.

GOGI students have a first-hand knowledge that individuals at risk for poor decision-making, and those released from prison need the support of like-minded peers, and service-oriented gatherings.

WELCOME TO THE FREE WORLD, GOGI

The next phase of GOGI is making it available to anyone who wishes associate with others who are dedicated to becoming the solution within their communities. Our next phase is that these Tools, created by prisoners for prisoners, become available to anyone, anywhere. As a natural part of our evolution, GOGI is in the final development stage of the **GOGI POWER UP**, a non-credit, non-course community-meeting format for the sharing of the GOGI Tools.

GOGI POWER UP

GOGI POWER UP meetings are community-supported, volunteer-based gatherings which are a tool with which our GOGI leaders can expand their service to community. A handful of pilot programs will be tested through the Spring and early Summer of 2018. During this pilot period we will find the ideal balance and determine the level of open access to specific GOGI materials.

This means GOGI will permit the use of **GOGI POWER UP** materials without alterations or modifications. This standardization of the delivery of **GOGI POWER UP** meetings will be in place for unlimited distribution by January 2019.



Standardization means there will be some non-negotiable elements that define the operation of the **GOGI POWER UP** such as:

- **GOGI POWER UP** meetings adhere to the GOGI Calendar of Study.
- **GOGI POWER UP** meetings start as one collective body but quickly break into process groups of no more than 12 individuals assembled in a closed circle.
- **GOGI POWER UP** does not utilize teachers, experts and does not promote any one person speaking too much or too often during the meeting. Leadership roles are rotated and all voices are needed and valued.
- At **GOGI POWER UP** meetings, chairs are arranged in small process circles, not in rows or classroom or lecture setting. There are no pulpits, blackboards, or standing speakers. Small community circles are the defining method of the **GOGI POWER UP**.

Free downloadable materials in the upcoming **GOGI POWER UP OPS MANUAL** will be available to any individual or organization willing to benefit from the high standard of excellence required.

GOGI PROGRAMS DIFFER FROM GOGI MEETINGS

The introduction of community meetings beyond the wall is just another evolution of GOGI. The distinction between GOGI prison programming and **GOGI POWER UP** meetings must be clearly understood.

Since 2015, GOGI has received funding for specific CDCR prisons within the state of California and as a result offered programming to more than 20,000 prisoners. This formal GOGI programming looked more like traditional education with completion of writing assignments in a workbook that generated a certificate of completion from GOGI. Through that funding, GOGI developed a database for the completion of certificate programs, essentially tracking overall student success.

While many of our GOGI students engaging in GOGI programming meet in small group formats, it is the completion of a workbook or course materials that generates a GOGI credit. Attending a GOGI meeting does not qualify an individual for a certificate from GOGI. Only the completion of a written assignment generates documentation into the database.

GOGI POWER UP meeting attendance will not be tracked by GOGI, nor will there be an issuance of completion available from GOGI. Attendance may be tracked by the organization hosting the meetings such as a prison, civic organization, re-entry facility or church group. When prisons offer **GOGI POWER UP** meetings as a program option, the prison is responsible for tracking attendance and awarding credits. GOGI will not track participation nor acknowledge the attendance in the **GOGI POWER UP** Meetings. Any and all acknowledgement will be solely at the discretion of the hosting entity or organization.

FREE GOGI POWER UP FOR PRISONS

Within the prison setting, there is no barrier placed by GOGI to all Departments of Corrections offering **GOGI POWER UP** meetings on a large scale to every prisoner. Open access to **GOGI**



POWER UP material means once the prison determines these meetings help with rehabilitation, they may support as many **GOGI POWER UP** groups as the prisoner's request.

Within the prison setting there are prisoners who are unable to program for a variety of reasons including limited classroom space, personal apprehension, security level, language, disabilities, and peer pressure. Even individuals with these barriers are able to learn the GOGI Tools through the **GOGI POWER UP** community circle. With or without earning credit, anyone can easily sit in on a **GOGI POWER UP** meeting to get information, reinforcement, and peer support to aid their continued use of the GOGI Tools for Positive Decision-Making.

CERTIFYING LEADERS WITH THE SHIELD OF SERVICE

While GOGI finds footing in society, efforts behind the wall become more defined and focused. GOGI need certified leaders. GOGI will offer the GOGI Shield of Service Community Leadership Certification Program to incarcerated individuals.

The GOGI Shield of Service will be offered as correspondence courses to individuals, and offered to prison institutions as formal programming they may support as early as January 2020:

The 12-month Certified GOGI Community Peer Facilitator

The 18-month Certified GOGI Community Peer Coach

The 24-month Certified GOGI Community Coach

Structured much like a GED and an Associate's Degree, these certifications have specific curricula requirements. The course materials are subsidized with grant and donor funding. This permits prisons to consider GOGI Leadership as a viable investment in their population's rehabilitation. Updating current Peer Coach and Coach status to the new certification will be simplified and partially retroactive for current GOGI leaders.

GOGI POWER UP ~ FOR SCHOOLS, CHURCHES, COMPANIES, LAW ENFORCEMENT, MILITARY, AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS...

As the GOGI culture continues to evolve, it will be GOGI leaders who offer the GOGI Tools for Positive Decision-Making to school children. It will be GOGI leaders who share the universality of the GOGI Tools in places of religious worship to help strengthen those communities. It will be GOGI leaders who bring GOGI Tools to the workplace and civic organizations to create the harmony and peace available through service. The simplest way for our leaders to be of service and share simple tools for positive decision-making is through offering the **GOGI POWER UP**.

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

GOGI students understand the value of focusing on the future, realizing that decisions made today clear the path for the change tomorrow. Today, GOGI leaders are ready to be of service.

Armed with nothing more than the GOGI Shield of Service, GOGI leaders soon will offer to their communities the solution we have always known them to be.