

Circle Guide

Self-managed system for free help

What is the Circle?

The Circle is a free-of-charge system to connect people offering help and people needing help. It is organized around ads pinned on a panel and the present guide describing the system. Objectives are to create a self-managed local community that provides free-of-charge assistance and mutual aid, with the end goal of connecting the people together, creating bonds. The Circle does not rely on any organizers or legal structure. To participate, it is only required to read this Guide, and to commit to the following rules with the others

Circle Rules

It is very easy! There is no commitment, but you have to certify that:

1. You will not offer or accept money or any kind of payment in exchange of the help offered or received. Any ad is free of charge and can be cancelled at any time.
2. You will disclose your real identity when offering or receiving help, for safety reasons.
3. Both the helper and receiver will participate to the task. If this is not possible (disability, age), the helped person should explain and at least keep company.
4. You are 18 years-old or above and in full capacity to decide for yourself.
5. You understand that the Circle is a system but neither a legal entity nor a non-profit. As such, it does not bear any juridical responsibility and therefore, cannot provide insurance in case of accidents, injuries or damages. This is then your duty to obtain guarantees of insurance from the involved participants in case of accident, injuries or damages.
6. You will not place an ad that implies dangerous or illegal tasks, and you will abstain from hurtful, shocking or illicit content (no racist or homophobic ad...)
7. You understand that this is your responsibility to investigate the risks in accepting help or offering help to someone, especially from a stranger. Make sure that another person you trust knows where, when and who you will receive help from or give help to. Try not to be alone when you participate and to choose public places whenever possible.

What to put in an ad?

An ad should at least contain a date or range for the help, the real full name of the contact, the nature of the help needed or offered, the number of hours involved and a phone number (preferably) or email address. To avoid conflicts or disappointment, it is recommended to clarify maximally the conditions of participation of each, not only on the ad but also during the call. If you ask for help and cannot participate to the task at all, you should make it clear why in the task. You can also place a help offer with something you like to do (cooking, gardening...). Ads for requesting or for offering help follow the same rules.

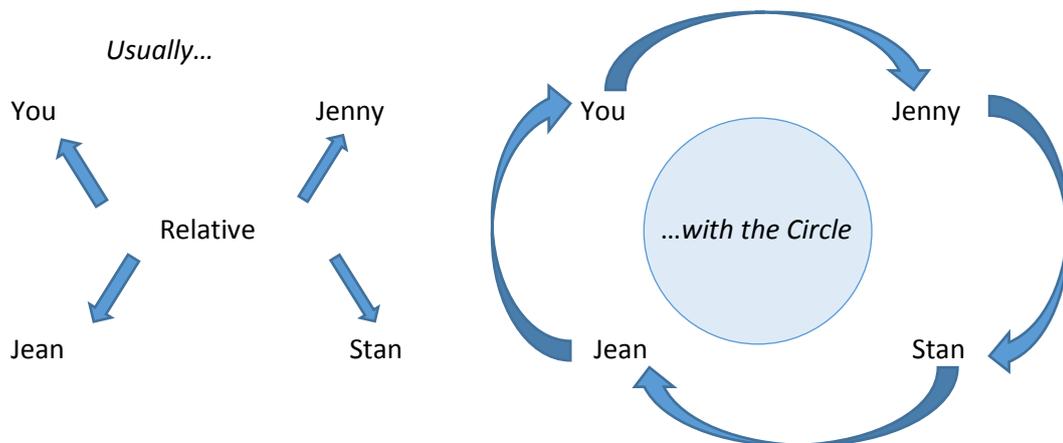
How to remove an ad?

Do not remove an ad without first asking the person who posted the ad. Please fill in the register of the participations when you remove an ad. The system only works because someone accepted to host it and the register helps the host to measure the usefulness of the Circle.

Utility of the Circle

Imagine that you need someone to translate a letter in French, that Jenny looks for a help in painting her fence, that Stan wishes some assistance with his computer and that Jean would fancy help in assembling a furniture. Often, relatives will help.

Imagine now that instead, each person posts an ad on the Circle panel. You decide to help Jenny with her painting, she helps Stan with his computer. In turn, Stan assists Jean with her furniture and Jean helps you to translate your French letter. In the end, the situation resembles the one in which relatives help. Yet, with the Circle, you met Jenny and Jean. Actually, each has met two new people which bears the potential for 8 new friendships. Now you know the two roles of the Circle: creating mutual help and connecting people together.



What to do if you cannot find an ad you like?

- Post an ad to request help for yourself or someone: we ALL need something
- Talk about the Circle, explain the concept to others to promote it
- Post a help offer: what do you enjoy doing that can be helpful?
- Create a new Circle in a place you think is more appropriate

How to create a new Circle?

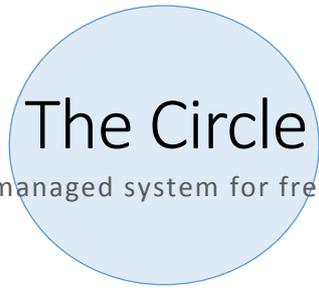
It is very easy! Find a visible place with a lot of people where it is protected from the weather. It could be in a friendly shop (big city) or a public building (small city), always with the agreement of the owners. It could also be in the stairwell of a building, if you want to connect neighbours. Download and print the Guide from <http://vertsluisants.fr/circle.htm>. Display the 6 pages on a panel, lining up the pages 4-6 and then the pages 1-3 on the second row.

Participation register

#	Date	Nb of hours	#	Date	Nb of hours	#	Date	Nb of hours
1			45			90		
2			46					
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								
21								
22								
23								
24								
25								
26								
27								
28								
29								
30								
31								
32								
33								
34								
35								
36								
37								
38								
39								
40								
41								
42								
43								
44								

People wanting help

Place your ads below



Self-managed system for free help

People offering help

Place your ads below