

The National School Reform Faculty® (NSRF®) publishes the *Connections* newsletter six times per year. To suggest a topic or submit an article, email nsrf@nsrfharmony.org or call 812-330-2702.

National School
Reform Faculty®
Harmony Education Center

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Big Changes Afoot: membership drive, a new website, and more!

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Everyone at NSRF® is working at fever-pace not only to keep up with our normal workloads around trainings and materials fulfillment, but preparing for our 20th anniversary in 2014. Soon you'll see an entirely updated and expanded website, new materials to help members, member-coaches, and national facilitators be even more effective, a new logo, and more. Santa's elves couldn't be busier than we are.

And it's all worth it, you'll see.

Shifting to a more balanced paradigm.

At its beginnings in 1994, NSRF began as a totally grant-funded organization. In the last several years, NSRF has transformed into an entirely self-supported organization through our memberships, materials sales, and fees for trainings.

We honor our commitment to serving educators, regardless of their ability to pay, by keeping the original NSRF protocols and activities available on our new website, and by offering scholarships for training. However, for the sustainability of the organization and with respect to those who keep our organization afloat, we felt it was time to offer more benefits to those members, member-coaches, and current national facilitators.

Beyond the usual benefits of membership.

First and most important, paid membership in NSRF has always supported us in maintaining and improving our ability to continue our work, providing educators with protocols and activities, and supporting learners of all ages in achieving greater successes worldwide. Membership funds also support our ability to offer scholarships for those who need it, although we continue to request support specifically for our scholarship fund.

While NSRF previously offered memberships at three different monetary levels, we now have a tiered membership structure with tiered benefits.

Free remains free, mostly.

The original NSRF protocols and activities that have always been free on our website will remain available, and remain free. And the price of each level of membership comes with benefits that more than balance the number on your check.

The revised website is expected to launch in mid-December, and we plan to publish the January issue of *Connections* with a face-lift of its own. Starting in January, we'll have more links inside *Connections* to help you with your practice, but only members

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who are current with their annual membership fees will have access to that material.

The benefits of a basic NSRF Membership:

Our basic membership fee remains at \$25 and now includes the following benefits in addition to the 200+ original protocols and activities freely available on the website:

- Updated and new activities
- Ongoing subscription to *Connections*
- Access to archived issues and articles from *Connections*
- A \$25 discount on trainings scheduled during the membership year
- A 10% discount on materials purchased during the membership year
- And more benefits to be added to the website as they become available, including training videos on NSRF activities

Added benefits of a member-coach NSRF Membership:

Members who can provide documentation of having completed five-day NSRF coaches training are eligible to become member-coaches. The member-coach annual fee remains at \$75 and now includes the following benefits in addition to everything listed above:

- Updated and brand-new protocols
- Access to texts good for use within Critical Friends Groups® and other meetings
- A \$75 discount on trainings scheduled during the membership year and 10% discount on materials purchased during the membership year
- Collection of tip sheets, sample surveys and letters, and other support for starting and maintaining CFGs®
- Access to the NSRF staff and National Facilitators to help you with specific protocol and activity questions
- And many more benefits coming soon including a web-based forum for discussion and questions with your peers and with national facilitators in good standing, plus training videos on NSRF protocols, and access to purchase a new *Protocol Selection Tool* and a *New Coaches' Workbook!*

And for national facilitator members:

Your section will include new agendas and texts for trainings, support for setting up your own local open trainings, a private forum, and eventually, a new facilitator's guide. Not only are we streamlining the process to pay you for work we assign you, but also automating your ability to add the coaches you train to our database, so they can receive the benefits above.

Please let us know what you think.

We understand that this shift might be startling to some of you, but we hope for your understanding that these changes will help us stay sustainable into the future and keep our training costs as low as possible. We hope the increase in benefits inspires you to continue supporting us, as we strive to continue supporting you more and more effectively. If you have any suggestions for other member benefits you'd enjoy, please contact us with those ideas.

Watch your email for instructions to join or renew your membership!

