



THE ASPEN INSTITUTE
FORUM ON WOMEN
AND GIRLS

SOAR Watch Party and Discussion Guide

SOAR is an initiative in which women share their experiences as leaders to connect and lift up other women across generations, regions and backgrounds.



OVERVIEW

Across the globe, women are spearheading movements in communities large and small – and changing our world in the process. SOAR, a new initiative of the Aspen Institute Forum on Women and Girls, is designed to spark inspirational, bold conversations and spur action that transforms the lives of women and girls around the world.

The [2020 SOAR Leadership Series](#) is an opportunity to hear from diverse women leaders across generations and all segments of society and reflect on challenges that women and girls face in your own community. Through their stories, we hope that you'll learn from their journeys and look toward building on their successes.

Whether you plan to attend, have already attended, or are interested in hosting a viewing party to watch the Leadership Series, this guide is tailored for you. In this guide, we outline everything that you need to consider, coordinate, and share your experience, including:

- **How to host a watch party**
- **How to have a rich discussion**
- **How to share on social media**



WATCH PARTY

I want to be a SOAR host - What do I do?

Remember, you don't have to attend the SOAR Leadership Series in person to experience the power of the series. Whether you're huddling around a friend's laptop or gathering with a large group at your local coffee shop, there are many easy ways to learn, reflect, and inspire other women in your community — like hosting a watch party, facilitating a discussion, or engaging with the event on social media.

If you're interested in hosting a watch party for the [AFWG 2020 Leadership Series livestream](#), first take time to consider some simple logistical questions regarding content, attendees, location, and other details. The following outline is a helpful guide for anyone interested in becoming a host.

WHAT

Think about the purpose of your watch party and the issues that inspire you to bring people together.

Ask yourself:

- What are the issues that affect me – and the women and girls in my community?
- What ground rules are in place for my watch party? (e.g., speaking time, listening time, making a brave space)
- What do I want attendees to gain from our conversation?

WHO

Think about who you want to invite to your watch party. What voices and perspectives should be part of the conversation? Be intentional about diversity, inclusivity, and representation within your community.

Ask yourself:

- Who do I want to invite? (Examples below)
 - People in my community who care about women's and girl's issues;
 - Women leaders working at the forefront of my community or behind the scenes; and
 - Voices of women most affected by the issues highlighted in the leadership series.
- Who do I trust to have an open, honest, and respectful conversation about my hopes and fears for women and girls?
- Who do I respect and want to learn from?

WHERE

Think about the location of your watch party if you are gathering in person. Consider comfortable spaces with privacy for open conversations.

Ask yourself:

- Where should my watch party take place?
- Are there places within my community that would host the event? Consider places of worship, community centers, college campuses, women-owned small businesses, or a home.

If some, or all, of your group can't meet in person, that's OK.

Join virtually:

- Be sure to all participate in the chat that takes place during the livestream.
- Connect after you watch the leadership series and have a reflective conversation on the phone or by video chat.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

I'm inspired and motivated – What's next?

Imagine that you've watched the livestream at your party or just heard an amazing recap from one of your attendees – what do you do next? Think about your role in continuing this conversation and the various ripple effects around the world. How do you want your watch party to inspire others? How will you move the needle?

Now is the time to lead a discussion about what you just heard and experienced as a group. This discussion can look and feel a variety of different ways, and the guide below will help organize the flow of discussion topics and ensure that each person walks away with a call to action.

PART 1: REFLECT

Take five minutes to reflect. Ask everyone to write two things, thoughts, or ideas that resonated with them after watching.

Ask the following questions:

- What touched you? Why?
- What did you find most interesting or inspiring?
- Did the speaker's story challenge you or your current way of thinking about something?
- How would you describe the speaker's leadership style?
- Do you see yourself as a leader in your home, community, work, or anywhere else?
- What's your leadership style?
- What did the speaker teach you about leadership?

PART 2: ENVISION CHANGE

Now that you've discussed the speaker and your immediate reactions, pivot to the community at large.

Ask the following questions:

- Where do you hope to see change in your community?
- What keeps you up at night about women and girls in your community?
- What is an urgent challenge facing women and girls in your community and globally?
- How does this challenge disproportionately affect women and girls in your community?
- What's your vision or big-picture roadmap of what your community might look like if that challenge didn't exist?

PART 3: TURN INSPIRATION INTO ACTION

Your next step is to think about how to transform your inspiration into action. Start by expressing a commitment to taking on the challenge you noted in the discussion.

Engage your audience:

- Go around the room and say your pledge out loud.
- Listen to everyone and think about how to support and keep one another accountable.
- Write your pledge on a [commitment card](#).

NEXT STEP: ACTION PLAN

Download the [Action Plan](#) and print one for each attendee.

Use this time to think about the impact that you want to have in your community and what this Leadership Series has motivated you to act on.

RESOURCES

Bring your inspiration to life!

Don't forget to talk about your experience at the 2020 SOAR Leadership Series or during your watch party! Use the SOAR hashtags to connect with others in the SOAR community and engage with women holding similar leadership sessions and thought-provoking discussions in the United States and abroad.



Be part of the global conversation
by using the SOAR Hashtag:

#WeLeadWeSOAR

Explore other hashtags and
template posts as you reach
out online.

General Hashtags

#womenleaders

#womenempowerment

#womeninleadership

PRINTABLES

Commitment Card

I commit to supporting women and girls in my community by:

Name: _____

My actions will help create a ripple effect that inspires and supports women and girls around the world. Share your commitment and invite others to be a part of our community.



@AIFWG
#WeLeadWeSOAR

AspenWomenandGirls.org



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[Click here](#) to download printable version.

Print the commitment sign below, hold it up, and take a selfie of you and your friends. Be proud and share your commitment!

I commit to supporting
women and girls in
unlocking their full potential.

@AIFWG #WeLeadWeSOAR



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[Click here](#) to download
printable version.

TEMPLATE TWEETS

There are many ways to share your commitment and support online, and these are just a few to get you started. Feel free to create your own social posts and share your own photos. Just be sure to use the hashtag **#WeLeadWeSOAR**.
[Download these social graphics to get started.](#)



Thrilled to be at the @AIFWG SOAR Leadership Series! Together, we can make our global community a place for women & girls to thrive. Join #womenleaders from around the world in our livestream & chat discussion: <http://bit.ly/37NcmCJ>



I attended the #AspenSOAR Leadership Series to connect with women from across the world & my community and move toward opportunity. When #WeLeadWeSOAR! Join our community today. #womenempowerment
<http://bit.ly/37NcmCJ>



I'm planning to attend the #AspenSOAR Leadership Series & host a gathering in my own community to turn our ideas into real opportunities for women & girls. Together, #WeLeadWeSOAR. Learn more and join us on March 3. <http://bit.ly/37NcmCJ>



I support #womeninleadership in my community. After joining the #AspenSOAR community, I collaborated with ____ to create ____ to ensure women & girls have opportunities to thrive. When #WeLeadWeSOAR! <http://bit.ly/37NcmCJ>