

How to Conduct a Santa Soaked Storytelling Workshop

1.) Greetings & Introductions. Lots of ways to get started. [Try some of these.](#)

2.) Read *Santa Soaked*, the keynote “how I came to understand the climate crisis” story. For a more festive event, have someone dress as Santa to tell his story. Others can join in to read the children’s parts. Hiranya’s section can be shared by several readers. Also, when Santa says “Try to imagine the incredible din...” stop so everyone can make some noise!

3.) Science overview: So many resources available! [The NASA guide for children](#) includes [a great .pdf version for printing on two sides of a single sheet](#). That’s a start. But what’s most important is to see the evidence of climate change in your own backyard. For some, these are painfully obvious. For others, it may be more subtle. But bringing in how this is happening locally is crucial. Once you learn to see the signs, see them everywhere. Developing this new awareness is a key goal of the workshops.

4.) Personal storytelling: Keep the breakout groups to 10 or less. Each will start by appointing a spokesperson/notekeeper for the group to report back when everyone gathers back together after. Then, who wants to tell their story first?

- How did you become aware of the climate crisis?
- What happened that got your attention?
- How has this awareness changed you?
- What changes have you made/hope to make to be part of the solution?
- Pledge to make a change, or commit to make that effort. Perhaps you have been thinking about making changes, and need support to do so. Maybe you feel ready to make a pledge to drive less, ride a bicycle more, add solar hot water heating to your home, etc. Maybe you can pledge to use what others offer as suggestions, or to help others make their pledges happen.

It is absolutely essential to take special care for those still working on their story. Also, it's ok just to listen. It's OK to not make any kind of pledge. It is already a great gift that they have invested their time and their willingness to be present.

5.) Reconvene the larger group. The spokespersons share highlights, everything from the experience of those with direct losses to a loss of hope for the future. Also, what is the hope that has brought them to the workshop? What did they gain from their group? What did they learn to be part of the solution?

6.) Open Mic: Groups nominate stories already shared in the smaller setting to be told to the larger group. Or, anyone can come forward here. If storytellers agree, these may also be recorded for the larger Santa Soaked community. Perhaps you will want to invite in a local radio station to record and share these with the local audience. These stories hopefully will inspire others to awareness & action.

7.) In closing, explain how this works - why Santa Soaked and the workshop are offered as a gift. Those who value the book and the storytelling experience are invited to offer their support, perhaps by inviting friends who might have a story to share. All are welcome to remain to see how to bring their gifts to support this project. Be sure it is comfortable for anyone to leave without offering additional support. Thank them for already gifting their time by being present. It is absolutely crucial that there is no pressure at all. Gifting must be given freely, completely without coercion of any kind.). Finally, while costs are kept to a minimum, there are always expenses. These may include hiring the space for the workshops. Any financial gifts should first go towards supporting the local gathering. Then, gifts for the book and the larger project enabling other workshops globally are most welcome! [Please visit the Gifting section for more details.](#)

Afterwards:

When the workshop ends, those wishing to gift their efforts may remain to see how they can be of service. The first thing for anyone to get started is to simply write out a list of the people they know. Who should be invited to participate in the next workshop? Well, most anyone!

You may find that some of your friends aren't interested personally. Even so, they will know people who will be. Don't hesitate to ask them for their help in reaching out to them. Absolutely everyone you know will either want to engage this or knows people who will. It is essential that we reach as far and wide as we can to make sure that we reach as many people as possible. This is an all-in, all-out effort! Not sure what to say when making your outreach? See the companion worksheet "Getting the Word Out" for helpful templates for what to text, tweet & post.

NOTES: