

COMPEER MATCHING PROCEDURE

Here are the procedural steps that Compeer goes through to make a match.

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT / SCREENING / TRAINING

1. Compeer recruits volunteers through speakers bureau, colleges, churches and information events.
2. Potential volunteers submit an application, are interviewed and submit to a background check
3. Three references are contacted. If the volunteer qualifies, Compeer staff interview and train the volunteer.

IDENTIFYING AND MAKING A MATCH

4. Compeer staff match volunteers and participants based on shared interests, lifestyle and attitudes. When a potential match is identified, Compeer staff will then contact the therapist of the referred client to:
 - a. share info about the potential volunteer match with the therapist
 - b. confirm the referred individual's continued interest and need, and
 - c. discuss any special considerations of the match
5. If the therapist confirms the above, the volunteer will then call the therapist for a therapist interview.
 - a. Therapists have the final screening responsibility for a volunteer's appropriateness to be matched with the referred individual.
 - b. Please do not share the volunteer's availability with the referred client until after you have spoken with the volunteer and have approved the match, AND the volunteer has indicated that they are willing to move forward with the match.

INTRODUCING MATCHES

6. If the therapist and volunteer agree to proceed with the match, Compeer staff will arrange to introduce the volunteer and referred client to each other, preferably, in person. At this meeting:
 - a. all parties review Compeer's Program Rights and Responsibilities
 - b. talk about mutual interests
 - c. exchange contact info, and ideally, make arrangements for a first outing together.

ON-GOING SUPPORT

7. Compeer staff receive monthly volunteer reports stating activities, time spent, as well as any observations or thoughts the volunteer might want to share or get support around. If needed, the volunteer or Compeer staff may contact the therapist directly for support.
8. The best matches are those in which a volunteer feels supported by the referring therapist. Therapists should be available to answer questions and offer suggestions as to how to best maximize the match relationship.
9. Compeer currently has a waitlist of referred clients. It may take several months before an individual is matched after being referred by the therapist.