

Why can't my friends decide where to eat out?

Contributed by Jay
Tuesday, 12 June 2007

"Why can't my friends decide where to eat out? It's really a drag. Sometimes, well really all the time, one of my friends will say no to every idea anyone comes up with. What do I do?"

How about you give me their email address and I'll ask them for you, if you won't do it yourself. You might as well turn that question around and ask yourself why YOU can't decide which restaurant to eat out at if you're not willing to have open communication with your friends. It's likely that this is your real problem.

Open and honest communication is the foundation of powerful relationships. A group of friends cannot just decide to go out to eat, someone has to be the originator of the thought. As interconnected as we are, we haven't reached borg-mind yet. The originator of the thought must have some idea in their mind about how they want the event to look like. Sharing that idea just might give the inspiration needed to get the group moving if the originator can't figure out how to bring that idea into reality. Give credit where credit is due. The one who brings your group together for that event should be recognized for their contribution and perhaps, given a controlling interest in the details.

If one particular person in your group refuses to participate except to negate any suggestions, a gentle reminder to put up or shut up if they have nothing to contribute, may be what they need to inspire their creative side. Social groups exist for the mutual betterment of the individual members. If your social group isn't providing that benefit, it may be time to rethink your dinner plans. You owe it to your peers and yourself to provide them with open and honest feedback for their participation. If the originator of the plans is allowed to take responsibility for the outcome, instead of spreading it around by hem-hawing, your groups will quickly establish a hierarchy of event-planners.

If someone doesn't like a particular plan, they are responsible for crafting an alternative, or removing their person from the discussion and/or event. Eventually your social group with either implode (which would be no great loss in the grand scheme of things), or grow stronger knowing that each individual is working towards enriching the value of the group. So, food for thought. Let me know how it works out for you.