

## A4TD's Nugget of Knowledge

#7 – June 3, 2020

### **Hello Again from A4TD . . .**

Greetings everyone. Last time we sent out our Nugget – two weeks ago – it was a sunny day and the birds were all around. Today as I write this it is grey and gloomy, and we're grappling with more national disruption. I know there are many lessons we can learn from living through these times – I just can't put them into words right now. So I guess instead, as is true in our daily lives – and in your training – let's strive to live each day with an open mind and heart, and to listen well for the wisdom of the moment.

And when the going gets tough – don't forget chocolate. Or YouTube videos of puppies and bunnies. Here's one for you, courtesy of CNN's weekly "Good News" email.

<https://youtu.be/WWQ2Xl9Se74>

This is our seventh weekly – well, almost weekly, **Nugget of Knowledge**. While we didn't get our Nugget out last week, it wasn't because we forgot you. Indeed, there is much going on behind the scenes on your behalf. A4TD staff may have contacted you to determine how you feel about returning to training and to discuss the paperwork you need to sign before you can return to training. As previously mentioned, when your host agency indicates to us that they are preparing to reopen and are able to welcome you back for training, it must sign a *Safety Verification Form* before we will allow you to return to the site; this Form confirms its compliance with certain common-sense safety precautions. This is why you must not return to your training site without discussing this first with A4TD staff.

In addition, I think some of what we wrote last time bears repeating:

*"We know that many of you are eager to return to training; others are nervous. If you wish to remain in self-quarantine, you may remain on paid leave so long as A4TD has its emergency protocols in place. Once we lift our emergency protocols, additional time on paid leave may be extended on a case-by-case basis for serious situations. After that, if you are not ready to return to training, we will put you on an unpaid leave of absence. Please know that we do not want you to feel forced to return to training before you are ready. Our staff will be in close contact with you as we move forward and will guide your return."*

We know that there will be many questions and challenges as our host agencies begin to reopen and we endeavor to help you return to training. We will take them as they come and will tackle each one with your safety and well-being foremost in our minds.

Stay in touch and keep those cards and letters – okay, those emails – coming.

***Read on and enjoy.***

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## **Just for fun - life hacks!**

In these past weeks we've given you information for accessing a wide variety of learning opportunities. This week we're going to shift a bit to a different kind of learning – life hacks! So if you are wondering how to make a homemade thin mint cookie, work out during a 90 second commercial break, or even make a woven cardboard mat for that new bunny of yours, check out this website.

<https://snapguide.com/guides/>

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Also, don't forget you can find all kinds of free resources for your most fundamental needs posted on A4TD's website here:

<https://a4td.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Free-Online-Resources-for-SCSEP-Participants.pdf>

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Finally, still worth repeating – here's how to best protect yourself from the coronavirus. Please review this guidance from the Centers for Disease Control.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>

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## **A Training Tidbit . . .**

### **Questions to ask in an Interview**

In an earlier Nugget we talked about how you should answer some common questions an interviewer will likely ask you in a job interview. But what about when the interviewer asks, *"Do you have any questions of me?"*

Gulp! You know it's not a good idea in a first interview to ask about salary or benefits, so what can you ask to show your impressive curiosity? Here are a few ideas. These questions will also give you insight into the opportunities and challenges of the position.

1. *"What is the most important thing I can accomplish in the first 60 days?"* OR

*“How will you judge my success?” OR*

*“What must happen in the next 60 days (or 3 months, or 6 months) to show I have met your expectations?”*

- **Why You Need to Ask:** You need to be on the same page as your new boss, as well as be clear on what the initial expectations are and that you can deliver. You don't want to be misled about the job's requirements and end up overwhelmed and in over your head.

2. *“How would you describe the company's culture? Can you give me some examples?”*

- **Why You Need to Ask:** Maybe the organization is “all business” and employees don't do anything social. Or perhaps it has a strong social mission and expects employees to participate in community volunteer activities. You need to decide if the culture is one you will enjoy and one where you will fit in.

3. *“What can you tell me about the individual I would report to?”*

- **Why You Need to Ask:** It doesn't matter how wonderful the company might be; your time will be spent working for a specific manager. You need to find out who this person is and what kind of manager he or she is -- earlier rather than later, before personality clashes develop. If you're an independent type used to working on your own, for instance, you'll be unhappy when you find you're being supervised by a micromanager.

4. *“Now that we've talked about my qualifications and the job, do you have any concerns about my ability to be successful in this position? Is there any additional information I can provide?”*

- **Why You Need to Ask:** You want to be sure that you have had every opportunity to showcase your strengths. You don't want to leave the interview without having had the chance to address any concerns the interviewer may have.

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## **A Little Bit about SCSEP . . .**

The Senior Community Service Employment Program is administered by the U.S. Department of Labor, which provides federal grant funds to every U.S. state and territory and to 19 national non-profit organizations in order to bring the program to participants like you. A4TD is one of those 19 national organizations, and we have been receiving funds for over 35 years to run our SCSEP program. We also receive money from state governments to operate the program on their behalf. Every 4 years the Department of Labor invites all interested organizations to apply / reapply to the federal government for these funds. 2020 is one of those years.

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## A Fun Fact . . . or two . . .

### Did you know . . .

. . . that the Vatican's bank is believed to be the only one in existence that allows ATM users to perform transactions in Latin?

### And, did you also know . . .

. . . that alcohol was invented much earlier than the wheel? Ancient Mesopotamians were the first people to adopt the wheel around 5500 years ago. The oldest evidence of booze found so far comes from 9000 year old chemical traces of a fermented cocktail found on a drinking vessel in Jiahu, China.

Priorities people, priorities!

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### Here is a little quiz for you:

**What country is the home to the Mobile Phone Throwing World Championship?** (It's also a national sport there.)

- Scotland?
- Malaysia?
- New Zealand?
- Finland?

Stay tuned for the answer next time. (Or, feel free to respond back with the answer and you will get a shout out in the next Nugget!)

Last time I asked you ***“What can be found carved among the gargoyles and grotesques on the façade of the National Cathedral in Washington, DC? A duck wearing a necktie? Darth Vader? Captain America?”***

**The Answer?** Darth Vader     Kudos to Steve T.

Extra credit: ***What's the difference between a gargoyle and a grotesque?***

**The Answer?** A grotesque decorates the exterior of a building. A gargoyle is a grotesque that has an additional purpose – to convey rainwater away from the sides of a building.

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**And just for fun – sometimes you can't read just one:**



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### In case you need a break . . .

Sick of staying inside your home? Worried about going out on the streets? Well, I think we all could benefit from a visit to the top 10 most beautiful places in the world. Enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OHAWwaYu2H0>

If you have a suggestion of somewhere to add to this list, let us know!

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### **A Final Thought . . .**

"Fear keeps us focused on the past or worried about the future. If we can acknowledge our fear, we can realize that right now we are okay. Right now, today, we are still alive, and our bodies are working marvelously. Our eyes can still see the beautiful sky. Our ears can still hear the voices of our loved ones."

--*Thich Nhat Hanh,*

Vietnamese Thiền Buddhist monk, global spiritual leader, Zen Master, poet and peace activist.

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### **Ask A4TD . . .**

Finally, remember that if you have a comment or a question for A4TD, "reply" to this message and share your thoughts or questions.

***Until next time, we wish you health, we wish you safety, and we wish you peace. We are with you.***

***Sincerely,***

***All of us here at A4TD***