



New England

Society of American Foresters

Growing better all the time

Leadership Tools

January 2010

Conference Calling – Businesses use conference calling on a daily basis to connect remote participants in meetings that would otherwise not take place due to high travel costs and time. A conference call is not the same as three-way calling, and can be done at no additional cost to a traditional phone call. Several options are available to members and units free of charge.

Option 1 – The Society of American Foresters (National) maintains a conference call account for use by all members and units. The system can handle 20 callers in a call. The account however can only be used for one conference call at a time. Therefore you must reserve the line ahead of time so that it doesn't conflict with use by other units nationally. Members have reported that the clarity of the line needs improvement. Minimizing cell phones and single-user speakerphones will help greatly to improve the clarity of any conference call. Schedule these calls with Brittany Brumby, SAF National, at (866) 897-8720 ext. 121, or brittany@safnet.org.

Option 2 – A better option for clarity of call, and ease of use (no reservations necessary), is to set up a free account at freeconferencecall.com. While the unit or call administrator must complete a

one-time registration online with a name and email address, the system thereafter works as a traditional conference call through your normal phone. Users do not need to register. After the initial registration, simply call the number provided whenever needed and enter the access code that is unique to the unit or member who registered for the account. The conference call line is available 24/7. Each conference call account accommodates 96 callers on an unlimited number of 6 hour free conference calls. Only normal domestic long distance rates are charged by the participant's long distance carriers for the length of the call. View the website or call (877) 482.5838 for more information.

Leadership Tools is a short-term, recurring column in the *New England SAF News Quarterly* that highlights tips and tools to common challenges faced by SAF members in leadership roles. Any units or members with interest in sharing are encouraged to contact the NESAF Membership Chair, Peter L. Greeno at (207) 951-0955 or petergreeno@live.com.