

# Lifestyle Coach Facilitation Guide: Post-Core

## Healthy Eating – Taking it One Meal at a Time

### Content Overview

This session emphasizes how skipping meals can actually work against a participant's weight loss goals. This session explores strategies for thinking ahead and planning healthy meals and snacks that have less fat and fewer calories.

### Lifestyle Coach Preparation Checklist

#### Materials

---

- Post-core handouts:
  - Planning Meals
  - Build a Better Breakfast
  - Planning a Morning Meal
  - My Best Breakfast
  - Build a Better Main Meal
  - My Best Main Meal
  - Planning Better Snacks
  - Satisfying Snacks
  - My Best Snacks
  
- "Food and Activity Trackers"
  
- "Lifestyle Coach's Log"
  
- Balance scale

## Post-Core: Healthy Eating – Taking it One Meal at a Time

---

### Key messages to reinforce

---

- Skipping meals can lead to extreme hunger and uncontrolled eating, resulting in an intake of more fat and calories than a regular meal.
- The best approach to meals is to eat four to five smaller meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner, and one or two snacks) throughout the day that include a variety of nutritious, low-fat, and low-calorie foods.
- Research shows that people who skip breakfast tend to be heavier than those who eat a proper breakfast.
- For the main meal, include low-fat protein, whole grains, and plenty of vegetables.
- To improve your snack choices, make a plan. Take steps to avoid situations or feelings that make you want to snack on unhealthy choices.

### After the session

---

At the completion of this session, do the following:

- Use the “Notes and Homework Page” for notes and follow-up tasks.
- Distribute “Food and Activity Trackers” (4) for the following month.

## **Skipping Meals**

**Present:** When trying to lose weight, it is tempting to skip meals to save calories. This often backfires, however, because the resulting hunger can lead to uncontrolled eating with an intake of larger quantities or higher fat and calorie content. Many times, the end result is that a person eats more fat and calories than they would have with regular meals.

In addition, your body needs a certain amount of calories and nutrients each day in order to work properly. Skipping meals may actually work *against* the body's normal metabolic processes and lead to weight gain.



## **Planning Meals**

**Present:** The best approach to meals is to eat four to five smaller meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner, and one or two snacks) throughout the day that include a variety of nutritious, low-fat, and low-calorie foods.

When planning meals, focus on reducing fats and refined sugars (like those found in sweets).

Remember that fat contains more than twice the calories as there are in the same amount of sugar, starch, or protein, and somewhat more than alcohol.

|                       | <b>Fat</b> | <b>Carbohydrates</b> | <b>Proteins</b> | <b>Alcohol</b> |
|-----------------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| <b>Calories/gram*</b> | 9          | 4                    | 4               | 7              |

\*A gram is a unit of weight. A paper clip weighs about one gram.



## **Build a Better Breakfast**

**Present:** Research shows that people who skip breakfast tend to be heavier than those who eat a proper breakfast.

### **Do you usually eat in the morning?**

- If yes, what do you usually eat? When? Where?
- If no, what are your reasons?

### **How does your morning eating pattern vary on weekends?**

### **Do you skip breakfast and overeat at night?**

- If so, what food(s) could you eat less often at night? (include calories and fat grams)
- What food(s) could you start eating in the morning? (include calories and fat grams)

### **Did you know...?**

- Breakfast can take less than five minutes to make.
- People who eat breakfast tend to make healthier food choices during the day.
- Breakfast eaters tend to be in a better mood, have more energy, and do better on memory tasks.
- People who *don't* eat breakfast tend to overeat during the day, especially at night. So the next morning, they are less hungry and are less likely to eat breakfast. Vicious cycle!



## **Planning a Morning Meal**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Low-fat Protein</b>  | Choose skim or 1% milk or soymilk, nonfat or low-fat yogurt (either plain or sugar-free). Try nonfat or low-fat cottage cheese or an egg (hard boiled, poached, or scrambled with cooking spray) or egg substitute.         |
| <b>Fruit</b>  | Choose fresh fruit, or frozen or canned fruits packed in water or juice (not heavy syrup).  |
| <b>Cereal</b>   | Choose whole grain cereals that are low in sugar. Avoid “frosted” or sweetened cereals, granolas, and cereals with nuts.  |
| <b>Bread or Oatmeal</b>   | Try whole grain toast or an English muffin. Top with nonfat cream cheese, jam, jelly, or all-fruit spread. Make oatmeal and top with fresh fruit or nonfat yogurt. Avoid croissants, biscuits, doughnuts, and most muffins. |
| <b>Pancakes</b>   | Top with a small amount of low-fat margarine or reduced-calorie syrup, fresh fruit, or fruit purees like applesauce.  |
| <b>Potatoes</b>   | Make your own home fries with pan spray instead of oil. Heat a leftover baked potato in the microwave. Top with nonfat sour cream.  |
| <b>Leftovers</b>  | Use the microwave to reheat leftovers from last night’s dinner. Grilled chicken, brown rice, whole wheat pasta, or lean beef can be just as delicious at breakfast.   |
| <b>Avoid these foods, or eat in smaller quantities:</b>   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Bacon</li><li>➤ Sausage</li><li>➤ Sugar, honey, regular syrup</li><li>➤ Margarine, butter</li><li>➤ Whole or 2% milk, cream, regular sweetened yogurt</li><li>➤ Pastries, coffeecake, doughnuts</li></ul> |   |



## **My Best Breakfast**

**Present:** Look through your completed “Food and Activity Trackers”. Find some examples of healthy breakfasts. If you don’t have your Trackers, think back to healthy breakfasts you have eaten in the past.

**Ask:** What food choices work well for you?

How many calories and fat grams at breakfast are best for you?

- Calorie goal for breakfast:
- Fat gram goal for breakfast:

**Use the examples to build three “standard” breakfast menus for yourself.**

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>Menu 1</b> |  |
| <b>Menu 2</b> |  |
| <b>Menu 3</b> |  |



## **Build a Better Main Meal**

**Present:** For the main meal, plan the food around lean protein and whole grains. Use little to no fat during the preparation. Add plenty of vegetables.

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Low-fat protein</b>    | Include low-fat cuts of meat, poultry or fish, cooked without fat. Serve beans or soy-based products, such as tofu, more often. Make an omelet and add fresh vegetables.   |
| <b>Pasta</b>              | Top spaghetti with a low-fat meat sauce and steamed vegetables. Make lasagna with low-fat cheese and a layer of spinach or broccoli.   |
| <b>Rice, other grains</b> | Serve brown rice with stir-fried vegetables and lean chicken, pork, or tofu. Add rice to vegetable soup or chili. Experiment with whole grains like barley, couscous, wild rice, millet, quinoa, kasha, and bulgur.  |
| <b>Bread, tortillas</b>   | Make pita bread pizzas topped with vegetables and low-fat cheese. Fill tortillas with cooked chicken, steamed vegetables, rice, and salsa. Sandwiches can be a main meal, too (e.g., grilled chicken, hot turkey). So can breakfast foods (e.g., pancakes with low-fat spread, breakfast burrito with eggs, vegetables, and low-fat cheese). |
| <b>Potatoes</b>           | Top baked potatoes with steamed vegetables and nonfat sour cream. Make a delicious stew with lean beef and plenty of potatoes, carrots, and onions.  |

### **Serve fruit as a side dish or for dessert.**

- Slice several kinds of fresh or canned fruit (without syrup) into an eye-catching bowl.
- As a topping, try a small amount of sherbet, sorbet, or low-fat, sugar-free yogurt.



## **My Best Main Meal**

**Present:** Look through your completed “Food and Activity Trackers”. Find some examples of healthy main meals. If you don’t have your Trackers, think back to healthy main meals you have eaten in the past.

**Ask:** What food choices work well for you?

How many calories and fat grams at main meals are best for you?

- Calorie goal for main meal:
- Fat gram goal for main meal:

**Use the examples to build three “standard” main meal menus for yourself.**

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>Menu 1</b> |  |
| <b>Menu 2</b> |  |
| <b>Menu 3</b> |  |



## Planning Better Snacks

**Present:** To improve your snack choices, make a plan.

| A snack you eat often | Calories/fat grams per serving | Where and when you usually eat the snack |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 1.                    |                                |  |
| 2.                    |                                |  |
| 3.                    |                                |  |
| 4.                    |                                |  |
| 5.                    |                                |  |

**Ask:** Are most of your snacks planned or unplanned?

For many people, **unplanned snacks** are often triggered by one or more of the following. Check the triggers (cues) that apply to you:

- Being too hungry
- Being tired or overworked
- Feeling stressed, anxious, bored, or angry
- Seeing or smelling food, or seeing others eating
- Doing certain things or being in certain places (e.g., watching TV)
- Celebrating during holidays or at family gatherings
- Other

**Ask:** What could you do to avoid these situations/feelings or handle them differently?



## **Satisfying Snacks:**

### **Crunchy Snacks**

- 1 serving fresh fruit ( $\frac{1}{2}$  - 1 cup or 1 medium) 35-80 calories, 0 gram fat
- Raw vegetables ( $\frac{1}{2}$  - 1 cup or 1 medium) less than 50 calories, 0 gram fat
- 6 animal crackers 85 calories, 2 grams fat
- 1 sheet graham crackers 65 calories, 2 grams fat

### **Salty Snacks**

- 3 cups popcorn, microwave, light 60 calories, 3 grams fat
- 4 large or 8 small pretzel twists 55 calories, 0 gram fat
- 10 bite-size baked tortilla chips 55 calories,  $\frac{1}{2}$  grams fat
- 8 baked potato chips 85 calories, 1 gram fat

### **Chewy Snacks**

- 4 halves dried apricots 40 calories, 0 gram fat
- $\frac{1}{2}$  English muffin 68 calories, 1 gram fat
- $\frac{1}{2}$  Bagel 75 calories, 1 gram fat

### **Sweet Snacks**

- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup gelatin 80 calories, 0 gram fat
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sugar-free gelatin 8 calories, 0 gram fat
- Two 8-inch pieces licorice 80 calories, 0 gram fat
- 10 gumdrops or gummy bears 85 calories, 0 gram fat
- 5 vanilla wafers 90 calories, 5 grams fat
- 3 ginger snaps 90 calories, 3 grams fat

### **Chocolate Snacks**

- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup fat-free chocolate pudding 100 calories, 0 gram fat
- 1 fudge popsicle 60 calories, 1 gram fat
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chocolate nonfat milk 75 calories, 0 gram fat

### **Smooth or Frozen Snacks**

- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup applesauce, unsweetened 50 calories, 0 gram fat
- 6 oz. nonfat sugar-free yogurt 70 calories, 0 gram fat
- 1 frozen fruit juice bar 70 calories, 0 gram fat
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup nonfat frozen yogurt 95 calories, 0 gram fat
- One 2 oz. popsicle 45 calories, 0 gram fat



## **My Best Snacks**

**Present:** Look through your completed “Food and Activity Trackers”. Find some examples of healthy snacks. If you don’t have your Trackers, think back to healthy snacks you have eaten in the past.

**Ask:** What food choices, times, and places for snacks work well for you?

How many calories and fat grams for snacks are best for you?

- Calorie goal for snacks:
  
- Fat gram goal for snacks:

**Use the examples and the “Satisfying Snacks” list on the previous page to build seven “standard” snacks for yourself.**

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| <b>1.</b> |  |
| <b>2.</b> |  |
| <b>3.</b> |  |
| <b>4.</b> |  |
| <b>5.</b> |  |
| <b>6.</b> |  |
| <b>7.</b> |  |

