



Ramadan Al-Kareem

Bismillah hir Rahman nir Rahim:

This brief guide for Masajid attempts to answer the question, “Are we ready to share the blessed month of Ramadan with America?”

Each year before Ramadan, the Shura Council receives many inquiries from the private and public sector asking questions about Ramadan. They are thirsty for information and they want to know. America wants to know. Everyone wants to know what Ramadan is all about.

This guide does not replace, but adds to the myriad experiences of many community members, Masajid and organizations in reaching out to America through Ramadan.

We pray that this year’s Ramadan will be most spiritually enjoyable; not only for us but also for all people in our neighborhoods, InshaAllah. Always remember, “*it’s only together we can make a difference.*”

This guide is premised to serve two main groups: (1) the Muslim community of your Masjid, and (2) people of all faiths around your Masjid.

1. First Time Fasting Young Muslims: Several things can be done to inspire the young people who may have decided to fast for the first time or are thinking about it. Here are some ideas for both groups.

- Masajid can hold special programs for young people to answer many questions they may have about fasting. Invite another young person who fasted last year for the first time to share his/her experience.
- Those who have already decided to fast for the first time, formally “recognize” them in the Masjid newsletter and/or a dedicated evening. This will help them sustain their commitment for their faith and its practices.
- Masajid may consider giving small gifts and/or a certificate that young children will treasure as a souvenir for their entire life.

2. First Time Fasting New Muslims: This is a growing segment of the population in our communities. They do not necessarily believe they can fast, simply because they never did. Talking to them and encouraging them may help them fulfill their obligation.

- Hold a special program with the help of three important people from within your community. (a) an Imam or other knowledgeable person from the community; (b) a Doctor who can highlight the physical benefits, and most importantly; (c) another new Muslim who practiced fasting last year