Organizing Eagle Scouts with Similar Hobbies and Vocations to Benefit the Community, Scouting and One Another
NESA Affinity Groups Explained

An Eagle Scout

Be

Scouts

Organize, Socialize, and Help

Pursues

College, Career, or Hobby

Finds

Group of other Eagle Scouts in Same College, Career or Hobby
Purpose of NESA Affinity Groups

Have you ever participated in a sport or hobby and found that some of the people participating with you were Eagle Scouts?

Or took a class in college and realized that one of your study partners is an Eagle Scout?

Or perhaps, had a conversation with someone at a seminar or trade show and recognized an Eagle Scout lapel pin on their blazer.

Well, what happened???

After realizing the common ground of Scouting, most folks begin sharing with one another their similar camp experiences, the toughest merit badge they earned, how cool their Scoutmaster was, or maybe some of the details of their Eagle Scout project.

But what happened after that???

Well, if you are like most people that is where it ends and you get back to your hobby or studying for the next exam or move on to the next networking encounter.

The National Eagle Scout Association thinks it could be more!

NESA believes that the common ground of Scouting and a shared vocation or hobby (including college affiliation) between Scouting alumni could lead to some really great things.

The trick is getting organized. And that is where NESA Affinity groups come in...
The PURPOSE of a NATIONAL EAGLE SCOUT ASSOCIATION AFFINITY GROUP is to help bring together Eagle Scouts, who share a common interest or affinity, for the betterment of the community, youth members of the Boy Scouts of America, and each other.

You may be asking yourself, “That is a pretty lofty concept. So, what does a NESA Affinity Group REALLY look like?” Well, here are some examples...

*Imagine a group of students at a college or university organizing a group only comprised of Eagle Scouts. One of their activities is to participate in an intramural soccer team. In the off season, they put on a soccer clinic for a local Boy Scout Troop, get together and attend MLS matches, study together, and perform service projects for the school.*

OR

*A group of police officers who are also Eagle Scouts who organize a council-wide camporee in the Fall and a Crime Prevention merit badge clinic in the Spring. As an avenue to socialize with one another, one member hosts a NFL football viewing party.*

OR

*A collection of Eagle Scouts who are also financial advisors who establish a network to share ideas between one another and perhaps create a job shadow program for those interested in pursuing a career in finance. Between events they socialize at the local watering hole.*

So, how do you get started...
Getting Your NESA Affinity Group Started

**Step 1:** Determine Your Affinity — Choose the affinity upon which your group will be based. Examples include but are not limited to:

- College (Undergrad & Alumni)
  - Veterinary Medicine
  - Camping
  - Emergency Response
  - Forestry
  - Computer
  - Automotive
  - Photography
  - Aviation

- Medical
  - Welding
  - Community Service
  - Search and Rescue
  - Non Profit
  - Architecture
  - Accounting
  - Telecommunications
  - Birding

Dental
- Law Enforcement
- Sports
- Botany
- Education
- Construction
- Graphic Design
- Insurance
- Service Academies

There are so many possibilities!!!

**Step 2:** Contact Your Local Council’s NESA Committee — Contact your local council and ask for the contact information of your council’s NESA Chairman. Let him know of your intention to start a NESA Affinity Group. Your local NESA committee may be of service to you!

If a NESA Committee does not exist in your council, think about starting one yourself! Instructions can be found at [http://www.nesa.org/atf/cf/%7B36763F02-217C-488B-9B8B-E6189599245b%7D/NESA%20COMMITTEE%20GUIDEBOOK%20AND%20CHAIRMAN%20ORIENTATION%20GUIDE.PDF](http://www.nesa.org/atf/cf/%7B36763F02-217C-488B-9B8B-E6189599245b%7D/NESA%20COMMITTEE%20GUIDEBOOK%20AND%20CHAIRMAN%20ORIENTATION%20GUIDE.PDF)

**Step 3:** Apply and Register Your Affinity Group — Go to www.nesa.org to find the application to register your group. The Direct Link is [http://www.nesa.org/site/c.90IFJMPsGgiWF/b.9536103/k.C369/Local_Eagle_Groups.htm](http://www.nesa.org/site/c.90IFJMPsGgiWF/b.9536103/k.C369/Local_Eagle_Groups.htm)

**Step 4:** Recruit Members for Your Affinity Group — While there is no maximum number of members to begin your affinity group, we recommend starting with at least five members. You may find additional prospects for your affinity group through:

- Merit Badge Counselor Lists (Available through your local council)
- Conducting an Eagle Search (Available through your local council or through NESA.org)

Facebook
LinkedIn
College Directories
**STEP 4: DETERMINE WHAT YOUR GROUP WOULD LIKE TO DO – CREATE A MISSION STATEMENT.**

*SAMPLE*

The motto of the New Jersey State Police (Duty-Honor-Fidelity) and the Scout Oath and the 12 points of the Scout Law are common values to be found in the membership of The Boy Scouts of America and the New Jersey State Police.

The mission of the New Jersey State Troopers Eagle Scout Association is to support the values of and continue to build a relationship with Boy Scouts of America while enhancing the image of the New Jersey State Police thus promoting future recruiting, mentoring, and community relations among the youth and citizens of the State.

**LASTLY, MAKE SURE AS PART OF YOUR MISSION THAT YOU INCORPORATE FUN AND PROVIDE SERVICE TO YOUR MEMBERS, COMMUNITY AND SCOUTING AT LARGE. REMEMBER THAT YOUR GROUP CAN CONDUCT MULTIPLE ACTIVITIES PER YEAR OR ONLY ONE ACTIVITY. IT IS UP TO YOU!**

**STEP 5: GET ORGANIZED - ASSIGN RESPONSIBILITIES AND CREATE JOB DESCRIPTIONS**

*SAMPLE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART & RESPONSIBILITIES*

- **Affinity Group President**
  - Report to Council NESA Committee Chair activities and events
- **Scouting Service Chair**
  - Conduct Merit Badge Clinic
  - Reach out to local troops and provide program for meetings
  - Provide manpower and expertise for Eagle Scout projects
- Assist Council NESA Committee as needed

- **Member Service Chair**
  - Share Best Practices
  - Assist with Continuing Education
  - Conduct business breakfast meeting with guest speaker
  - Facilitate a Day at the Ballpark or other social activity

- **Community Service Chair**
  - Look for needs in community and provide service
  - Plan and market an annual Eagle Scout day of service

- **Secretary**
  - Facilitate communication with members

- **Treasurer**
  - Track and account for Affinity Group Finances

- **Vice President**
  - Assist Affinity Group President as needed

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**Step 6 Create a Self-Identifier** — The National Eagle Scout Association is willing to help you promote your Affinity Group through producing stickers with the NESA logo on your locally produced design. Just contact the NESA office at 972-580-2000 or nesa@scouting.org.

Sample Self Identifier
CREATED FOR NESA FIREFIGHTERS

Those are the steps
Now make it happen!
FAQ’s

1. **Do you have to be a NESA member to be a member of a NESA Affinity Group?**
   Yes, we recommend that all Affinity Group members also possess a membership in NESA. Funds from NESA memberships go to scholarships for Eagle Scouts, recognition items, the facilitation of an Eagle Scout database, and resources to help young Scouts reach the Eagle Rank. In addition, registered members of NESA will be available to you for organizational and communication purposes and will receive the quarterly newsletter Eagle’s Call.

2. **How often should a NESA Affinity Group meet?**
   NESA Affinity Groups can meet whenever and however often as they like.

3. **Does a NESA Affinity Group report to anybody?**
   We recommend that the NESA Affinity Group report to the local council’s NESA committee. If a NESA committee does not exist, we recommend that a NESA committee be formed out of the Affinity Group. The NESA Affinity group would subsequently become a sub-committee of the NESA committee. If this is not workable, the NESA Affinity Group may fall under a Council committee such as Membership or Program.
   It is also important to note that the NESA Affinity Group consults the council calendar when creating and planning events and activities to ensure that their activities are consistent with the council’s fundraising efforts, activities, etc.

4. **What can a NESA Affinity Group do for its members?**
   NESA Affinity Groups can promote camaraderie and networking among their members. What better network can exist than one that includes members that you know live by the Scout Oath and Law!?! In addition, through interacting with Scouts, NESA Affinity Groups can help enlarge the number youth that pursue their profession or hobby into adulthood.

5. **What can a NESA Affinity Group NOT DO?**
   A NESA Affinity Group is not designed to replace the NESA Committee at the local council but to help the chapter become more effective at serving the interests of its members.
   NESA Affinity group fundraising efforts may not be conducted without authorization by the council.

6. **What about my local Affinity Group Finances?**
   The Order of the Arrow provides a good model for handling finances for groups within the Boy Scouts of America. Consult with your local council to determine if a similar arrangement can be made as exists with your current OA Lodge.
Under this model all funds are deposited into a Council account and earmarked as a designated fund for the Affinity Group. Payments to the group should be made out to the local council, which allows for a tax deductible donation on behalf of the donor.

7. How do we facilitate a NESA Affinity Group that crosses council boundaries? NESA affinity groups that cross council boundaries or are national in nature should find a local host council under which to operate.