



---

## Start Your Own Support or Interest Group

Small groups to support one another or to share similar interests with offer an opportunity to meet new contacts for information sharing and networking. On a more personal level, small groups provide chances to meet new friends whom you can relate with on similar or differing experiences and to help you better understand yourself and the circumstances you are in. In some cases, support groups provide an anchor as you navigate through unfamiliar waters in your life's journey.

### Steps how to start your group:

1. **Identify the Group Type.** Determine what kind of support or interest group you want to create. Identify your goals and objectives. How many members are required to start with?
2. **Find a Location.** Start scouting for a meeting place. E.g. café, church, school, city or municipal hall, parks, your own home, hotel, etc.

### 3. Advertise

#### a. Advertising avenues:

- ISKA websites (ISKA Korea, ISKA Online, ISKA Facebook accounts)
- Personal Facebook
- Korea Herald Community
- Korea Times Community
- Other online bulletin boards for expats in Korea.

Note: Contact ISKA for ad placement on ISKA websites and Facebook accounts.

#### b. Your advertisement should contain the basic information such as:

- The type of group you are planning to put up
- Prospective members
- Objectives
- Meeting area
- Contact person with phone numbers, e-mails, website (You can use ISKA websites if you don't have your own website.)

- c. Get ready with your mobile phone, notebook, and pen to receive ad replies or inquiries. Get the caller's name, phone numbers, and e-mail address. This is an opportunity to build your mailing list.

### 4. Plan Meetings & Events.

Plan your programs. Develop an agenda. First meetings are opportunities for introduction. The host and participants introduce themselves before the host or organizer presents the meeting agenda as well as the purpose of the group. Introductions provide an overview on participants' concerns and interests. To make the first meeting and succeeding meetings fun, you may consider one of the tips how to host a small group at the Helpful Tips (towards the end of this document).

After identifying your agenda and plans, it is time to jumpstart putting up the first meeting.



---

## 5. Advertise & Invite

- a. Typical event ad format:
  - Event
  - Date & Time
  - Venue
  - What to bring
  - Contact person with contact numbers and e-mail
  - How to get there (provide a map or link, if necessary)
- b. Get ready with your mobile phone, notebook, and pen to receive ad replies or inquiries. Get the caller's name, phone numbers, and e-mail address. This is an opportunity to build your mailing list for follow-up or future events.

## 6. Plan your Meeting

The first and second meetings usually provide each member a glimpse on the interests of each participant. Brainstorm and plan for events and activities.

## 7. Subsequent Meetings.

Identify your themes, agenda, frequency of the meetings, roles and assignments

### Helpful Tips:

1. If you can find a partner to start a group, it will be easier than handling it alone. Two heads are better than one. Invite a friend to help you out in hosting the meeting, or a volunteer. If you need a volunteer, post a separate advertisement.
2. Hosting a meeting

### Things to Prepare

- Guest checklist
- Guest registration book
- Name tags
- Pen and paper
- Video or camera
- Food & Drink

Create a relaxing atmosphere for your guests. You may play music or play a movie in the background to create mood. Greet your guests at the entrance. Ask their names and give name tag, if appropriate. Hand them a drink as they walk in or ask your assistant to lead them to the refreshment table so they get loose. It is important that you make your guests feel comfortable. Always smile and thank your guests for coming at the end of the event as you walk them to the door.

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." - Mahatma Gandhi