

Affiliation of Local Organizations with American Atheists

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PURPOSE

American Atheists seeks to strengthen Atheism. Local Atheist-related organizations are encouraged to affiliate with American Atheists to improve the effectiveness of each, through friendship, communication, education and action.

DEFINITION OF AFFILIATION RELATIONSHIP

An affiliation, like a friendship, is a voluntary free association of independent partners. Each partner may influence the other towards common benefits, or withdraw from affiliation if desired.

Local Atheist organizations, organized for any legal Atheist-related purpose, are encouraged to affiliate with American Atheists. Local affiliates remain independent from American Atheists. Neither organization may issue statements, enter into contracts, or incur financial obligations on behalf of the other. Local organizations are asked to use local names, reserving “American Atheists” for the national organization.

AMERICAN ATHEISTS

American Atheists is a nationwide organization dedicated to the advancement of Atheism, and to the separation of government from religion as guaranteed by the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution. Founded in 1963, it continues to grow in membership and influence. A small headquarters staff supports a national volunteer organization, which operates the following services:

- Public activities in support of Atheists’ rights and state/church separation
- Network of members and State Directors, providing a structure for action
- National Newsletter, free to members
- American Atheist Magazine, published quarterly, available by subscription
- American Atheist Press, providing books and materials of all kinds for sale
- “Atheist Viewpoint” TV show, seen weekly on over 50 cable systems
- National and Regional Conferences
- Program assistance, speakers may be available on request
- Media FaxNet for press releases
- Largest Atheist library and archives
- Large website, www.Atheists.org, providing information about issues and events
- AANEWS, a frequent online newsletter
- AACHAT, providing on-line personal communications among members
- Annual scholarship program for student Atheist leaders

BENEFITS

Increasing communication and cooperation among Atheist organizations will help all of us work together. Local Atheist organizations choosing to affiliate with American Atheists will strengthen their own local influence. They can also use American Atheists resources of leadership and communication to gain ideas and information, to find new members, and to take an active role in their communities. Affiliated organizations receive:

- Free club listing on American Atheists website
- Free announcement of local events wherever and whenever possible
- Free club subscription to American Atheist newsletter
- Reduced convention registration fees for organization members
- Free affiliated clubs networking meeting at annual conventions.
- 20% discount first-year American Atheists memberships for organization members
- 20% discount on American Atheist materials over \$50 ordered by organization

PROCESS

A local organization may request affiliation with American Atheists if it agrees with the broad goals and purposes of American Atheists, has a significant number of members who are interested in becoming members of American Atheists, and is recommended by the State Director or other officer. Also please submit 2 recent issues of your group's newsletter, if any. Upon approval by American Atheists, the organization will be notified, and is immediately able to exercise all benefits. Affiliation is subject to annual renewal, and may be canceled at any time by either party. (Churches, mosques, temples or other religious groups are not eligible for affiliation, nor are groups that are "local committees" or DBA legal entities of any national incorporated group.)

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Application & Acceptance

Our organization is in general agreement with the goals and purposes of American Atheists, and requests affiliation as specified above.

Organization Name: _____

Number of Members: _____ Frequency of Meetings: _____

Leader Name & Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax/e-mail: _____

Website, if any: _____

Leader Signature: _____ Date: _____

Recommended, Affiliation Director: _____

Approved, President, American Atheists: _____

Effective Date: _____

Return Application to:

Jim Heldberg, National Affiliation Director, American Atheists

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