AFFINITY GROUP START UP

WHAT IS AN AFFINITY GROUP?

AOG Affinity Groups are communities of USAFA alumni that actively communicate or gather around a shared affinity or bond.

Affinity groups will generally fall into three categories:

- Identity-Based: i.e., Way of Life, The Blue Alliance, Academy Women, etc.
- Interest/Career-Based: i.e., rated group, engineers, small business owners, entrepreneurs, etc.
- Cadet Experience-Based: i.e., Drum and Bugle alumni, Honor Guard alumni, Wings of Blue alumni, other sport/club team alumni, etc.

Groups interested in recognition as an Affinity Group must apply for formal status with the AOG and be wholly in line with the mission, goals, policies, and objectives of USAFA and the AOG do not compete with any other group of a similar nature.

Affinity Groups are not formally federated under the AOG. Each is autonomous and structured in a way that best suits the purpose and activities of its membership. However, to be recognized as an official Affinity Group, the group must submit the Affinity Group application and meet criteria outlined in the application.

HOW TO GAIN AFFINITY GROUP STATUS

Every Affinity Group is different, and progress will not all be the same.

- Determine your purpose and mission for having an Affinity Group. This can transform over the years but defining your purpose will help guide future decisions and events.
- Establish a core group of individuals that want to contribute to creating an affinity. Choose a leadership structure. Either elect officers to your group positions or identify co-chairs and/or leadership team.
- Create an online presence and way to communicate with members. Having an online presence is a great resource for all constituents. Share information on upcoming events, photos, mission of group, etc. Also, set up generic email to share with constituents and further communication.
• Contact Affinity Support at affinitygroup.support@aogusafa.org to discuss the possibility of starting up an affinity. Affinity support will follow up with a phone call and email with Affinity Group information and application.

• Submit Affinity Group application and required materials to the Association of Graduates.

AFFINITY GROUP APPROVAL AND APPLICATION PROCESS

TO BE RECOGNIZED AS AN AFFINITY GROUP, THE GROUP MUST:

• Demonstrate the group is primarily (75%) made up of Air Force Academy alumni.

• Demonstrate the group’s founding documents and actions are wholly in line with the mission, goals and objectives of USAFA and the AOG.

• Complete and submit application for Affinity Group recognition along with required materials.

APPROVAL/DENIAL PROCESS:

Once the application is received, the AOG staff will review the materials to determine if the materials provided are sufficient for the President and CEO to begin consideration. If the materials are sufficient, the AOG staff will forward to the President and CEO for final determination. If the materials are not sufficient, the AOG staff will request additional materials from the group, prior to forwarding to the President and CEO.

The President and CEO will make a determination on approval/denial. If the application is approved, the group will be eligible for support for the remainder of the calendar year. All renewal submissions must be submitted prior to November 30th.

ANNUAL RESUBMISSION PROCESS:

In the month of November, if the organization wishes to reapply for Affinity Group recognition for the upcoming calendar year, the organization must resubmit the application with the required materials prior to November 30th, ensuring any changes or amendments to required materials is included.

Please email completed application to the Alumni Affairs staff.

Submit to: Affinity Support
Email: affinitygroup.support@aogusafa.org
Application to be Considered for Affinity Group Status

As president or co-president of the ____________________________, I hereby request the Association of Graduates consider my organization be recognized as an Affinity Group for the Calendar Year 2021.

I have attached the required materials listed below:

- Roster of all members of organization.
  - I have included complete list with names and class years (if applicable).
  - I certify that the organization is primarily (75%) made up of Air Force Academy alumni.

- Founding documents for my organization.
  - I certify my organization’s founding documents are wholly in line with the mission, goals, policies, and objectives of the AOG and the Air Force Academy.

- Links to my organization’s website and social media outlets
  - I certify the material on my organization’s platforms is wholly in line with the mission, goals, policies, and objectives of the AOG and the Air Force Academy.

______________________________________________
Name

______________________________________________
Date