

We're in This Together

How to Form a Knitting Guild

By Heather Storta

We are often asked for advice on how to form a knitting guild. Hopefully, some of the information in this article will help answer some questions you may have or point you in the right direction for seeking out answers!

There are many social knitting groups out there for camaraderie and socialization. Many of these groups are hosted by local yarn shops or are formed by enthusiastic knitters who seek out fellow knitters to come together on a regular or semi-regular basis. Some groups wish to be or become more formal groups, however, with meetings centering around education, charity knitting, and/or other causes. These groups might consider forming a guild.

“Guilds” typically have a strong education component, as well as charitable functions and community outreach. Guilds can meet monthly, or more or less frequently than that. Some portion of some of the meetings should be educational or have an educational component. All meetings can be educational or only some may be.

There are articles and information on the TKGA website that can help guide you when considering establishing a knitting guild. TKGA members can access articles that are specific to guilds, including documents outlining program ideas, meeting location options, and more. There is also a template for suggested by-laws for your guild. TKGA affiliation can be beneficial to your local guild since this allows you access to the specific guild-only area of our site where there are more articles and information for you to use, for help both in setting up your guild and also after you are established. We are continually adding more program materials for guilds to use as well, including Power Points and other digital presentations for use as educational programs. (If you have ideas for programs we could include, do please let us know!) Other knitters looking for a guild would be able to find your guild in our listing of affiliated guilds.

There are a couple of articles that can provide some more information on starting your own guild: “Guilds and Groups: From Group to Guild” by Laurie Chochinov, in the March 2017 issue of *K2TOG*, and “How to Establish a Knitting Guild,” in the January 2018 issue of *K2TOG*. We also have a thread dedicated to guild conversations in our Ravelry group, so feel free to post there seeking advice from other guild leaders and members.

Once you have formed and established your guild, do consider becoming a TKGA-affiliated guild. One or more of your board members will need to be individual TKGA members, and you will fill out the form with the requested information and pay the yearly guild membership fee to become a TKGA-affiliated guild. Your guild information will then be listed on our site, and you will have access to the guilds-only area of our website. Make sure you update your information each year when you pay your yearly dues.

If you have any questions about starting a guild or possible guild activities, or if you have suggestions for programs that TKGA can provide to guilds, please email me at hstorta@tkga.org!