

# How to Establish a Knitting Guild

We are often asked how and why knitting guilds should be established. Hopefully, the information presented here will be a starting point for you.

Many knitters are in groups and enjoy the camaraderie of knitting and socializing together. But there are some groups who want a bit more than a group can offer, such as education, knitting for a cause, formal meetings, and more. That's when it is time to think about establishing a guild.

There are articles and information on the TKGA website that can help you. If you are a TKGA member, you can access newsletter articles specific to guilds, documents outlining program ideas, where to meet, and how to store documents. There is even a template for suggested by-laws for your guild. TKGA affiliation can be beneficial to your local guild. There is a specific guild-only area on the website that provides articles and information that can be downloaded free of charge for use by your local guild.

If you have a group of knitters interested in starting a guild, there are some questions that need to be asked and answered. One way to begin is to contact an existing guild and ask for advice. They may be able to share by-laws, how they handle dues, speakers, charities to knit for, etc. The next thing to do is establish where the first meeting will be held. Initial guild meetings have been held in coffee shops, libraries, community centers, etc. Once you become established, a permanent meeting place can be secured. You may want to advertise this initial meeting in your local newspaper, yarn store, or even put up flyers. Ask your initial group of knitters to invite their friends.

Once you have established the time and place for the initial meeting, here are some things to consider:

- Who will the members be?
- Will there be yearly dues, what will they be, and what will they be used for?
- Who will be the officers of your guild?
- Where will your meetings be held and at what time? Some guilds hold meetings only in the daytime, others only in the evening, and still others both day and evening. Think about the people you want to have in your guild. Are they working during the day or retired?

- What will your guild do? Charity knitting, socialization, education, KALS and yarn swaps are some things to consider. Will you have outside speakers?
- What do you want your educational component to be? Knitting tips presented by members at a scheduled meeting is a great way to start. And you could think about correspondence courses, 30-40 minutes of a specified instructional program by a member, etc.
- Will you consider knitting retreats and knitting travel opportunities, such as traveling to all the LYS in the area as a group?
- Is there a venue where you can showcase your knitters' talents? Entering knitted items in a State Fair is an excellent place to show others what your group has done and also this type of activity can bring in new members if you so choose.
- Will you do a newsletter?

There is an article by Laurie Chochinov, in the [March 2017 issue of K2TOG](#), titled "Guilds and Groups: From Group to Guild," that gives more information to help you start your own guild. You can access this article if you are a TKGA member.

These are only some things to think about when starting your own guild, and, hopefully, they will be enough to get you started. Remember to establish affiliation with TKGA to take advantage of our program materials. And if you have questions about starting a guild or possible guild activities, please contact Binka Schwan at [bschwan@TKGA.org](mailto:bschwan@TKGA.org).

