


# birdsofafaithergroups

# ESCAPEES BOFs



BOF groups are groups of people who share a common interest. They are more informal than chapters and do not require bylaws and officers, but must abide by directives and be approved by National. Some BOFs meet only at Escapades, while others also hold rallies.

There is no charge to join a BOF, although most require a small fee to receive their newsletter if they publish one. BOF contacts are listed in your *Escapees* magazine.

A formation meeting may be held at an Escapade. In this case, you will need to discuss the long-term and short-term goals of your BOF. Select a spokesperson or leader to chair the group and perhaps someone to record ideas. You will decide whether you only want to meet at Escapades or if you'd like to have a publication. Even if no one in your immediate group has "publisher qualifications" a notice may be put in *Escapees* magazine to recruit one.

If you would like to start a new BOF prior to an Escapade, you may send your information to Angie Carr for approval. You need to provide the name of your proposed group, a brief description, and a contact name and address for interested members to contact. Use a current magazine for reference.

National BOF Coordinator

**Angie Carr**

100 Rainbow Drive  
Livingston, TX 77351

**888-757-2582**

Fax: 936-327-4388

## ESCAPEES BOF DIRECTIVES

**MEMBER MAILING** It is imperative that National know what is going on within each BOF. Therefore, every *Escapees* BOF group is required to include National on every mailing to the members of the BOF. This includes the mailing of the BOF newsletter as well as all notices mailed to BOF members. The mailing of individual correspondence is not included.

**MEMBERS ONLY** In order to belong to a BOF, one must be a member in good standing of the *Escapees* Club. Non-*Escapees* guests are welcome to attend a limited number of meetings or to receive one copy of the newsletter to find out what it is all about. To continue in the BOF, or to continue to receive the newsletter, one must join the *Escapees* Club because BOFs are for *Escapee* members.

**NEWSLETTER** If a newsletter is published, it will state on the cover, or on the second page, that it is a BOF group of the *Escapees* RV Club. If a logo is desired, the *Escapees* house and wagon must be incorporated into the design.

**NON PROFIT** BOFs should not be profit-making organizations. The dues collected should be primarily for the purpose of printing and mailing a newsletter. Each BOF shall send a financial accounting to national headquarters on an annual basis. Each BOF may select either January or July for this report.

**ROSTER** An updated membership roster may be provided to the members and published annually in the BOF newsletter. A membership roster should be sent to National annually.

**DISSOLUTION** In the event of the dissolution of a BOF, all obligations shall be paid and any remaining assets shall be sent to *Escapees* RV Club. *Escapees*, Inc. shall not be liable for any debts incurred by the BOF.

**WEBSITE** A template Website shall be provided to all BOF groups. Each BOF group is responsible for finding a webmaster to update the Website. The Website must be kept up-to-date. National will provide the URL name, username and password to each group.

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\_\_\_\_\_ SKP#

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ BOF Name

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Contact Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

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**ESCAPEES BOFs****The Structure and Purpose of a BOF Group**

**BOF groups are special-interest groups that bring together Escapees members with a common interest.**

**They Can Serve To:**

- Provide a method for members with a common interest to find each other.
- Provide an opportunity to engage in some avocation, e.g. Boondockers BOF and Ham Radio BOF.
- Provide an opportunity for interested members to learn about a particular subject.
- Provide emotional support in certain situations, e.g. Open Door BOF (for widows & widowers).
- Provide for social interaction, e.g. Boomers BOF.
- Provide for group action to accomplish a specific task, e.g. Habitat for Humanity BOF

**Some Ideas for Starting a BOF Group:**

1. It needs a theme or topic.
2. It needs an organizer and leader (they do not need to be the same person).
3. It needs a time and a place (with the required facilities) to get together.
4. It needs a method for communicating the idea to other Escapees members. Typical techniques might include:
  - Write a small item for insertion in the BOF section of *Escapees* magazine.
  - Post a sign-up sheet on the BOF bulletin board at an Escapade.
  - Make an announcement at the social hour at any Rainbow Park or campground.
  - Any other method of communicating with other Escapees members.

A BOF group may consist of members of a larger group that is not associated with the Escapees Club; however, all of the members of the BOF group must be Escapees members (e.g. Elks, Christian Fellowship and the Friends of Bill W.). The primary activity of the group is not allowed to be the marketing or selling of a product.

The subject of a BOF group must not be in conflict with any of the rules of Escapees RV Club. Most group ideas are accepted, provided they are not "hate-related," or currently covered by another BOF group and have a theme that will be of interest to a significant number of members.

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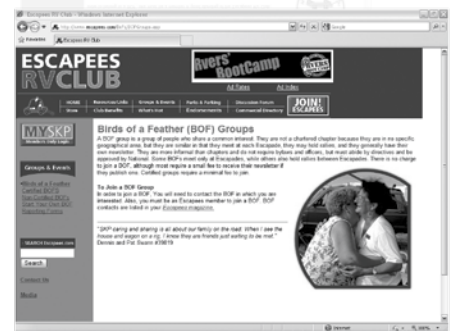
## Some Thoughts on Keeping a BOF Group Going


1. The group needs a "critical mass" of people who want to keep it going. This number may vary, depending on the particular topic of the group.
2. The members of the group must want to keep it going. If only one or two people are interested in continuing the group, it may be rather difficult.
3. Prepare a plan of activities or agenda for subsequent meetings.
4. Decide on the time and location of subsequent meetings. Will they be only at Escapades? At campgrounds? Or at other locations?
5. The ongoing nature of the group must be communicated to other Escapees members. The techniques employed here may include all of the methods mentioned for setting up a BOF group, as well as:
  - Establishing a Website on the Internet so computer-literate Escapees members can communicate with BOF organizers.
  - Publish a BOF newsletter. This may be a single page, but it will serve to let members know that the group is still functioning.
  - Send an e-newsletter to BOF members.
6. Decide on the best way to recruit new members for the group.
7. Consider including social activities along with the group's major function, e.g. a pot-luck along with a cross-stitch meeting.
8. Consider having "activity trips" as well as meetings, e.g. birding trips (Birders), bicycle rides (Bicyclists), and visiting an RV plant (NuWa Owners).

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**Rules for BOF Certification**

**BOFs meeting specific criteria may apply for certification. Certification is purely optional, but in order for BOFs to receive certified status, they must agree to the rules of certification.**

**To Qualify:**

- Certified BOFs must abide by established BOF directives and bylaws mandated by Escapees RV Club.
- Certified BOFs must maintain at least 150 member-families to be eligible. BOFs that drop below this number will be reviewed to determine if the lower level of activity is temporary or if, indeed, the decreased number is due to diminished interest.
- Certified BOFs must elect at least two officers from different families, e.g. membership coordinator and treasurer. They may elect more officers if they so choose.
- An election must be held every two years. There are no term limits.
- Certified BOFs must meet at every Escapade. Additional official meetings may be called.
- The Escapees name must be incorporated with the BOF's certified name. The house-in-a-wagon logo is required to be part of the BOF logo.
- In the event of the dissolution of a BOF, all obligations shall be paid and any remaining assets shall be sent to the Escapees RV Club. Escapees, Inc. shall not be liable for any debts incurred by the BOF.

**Certified BOFs Will Receive:**

- A certificate of certification from Escapees, Inc.
- Special consideration at Escapades for meeting space and recruitment purposes.
- An invitation to join chapters in the Parade of Flags ceremonies at Escapades.
- An Escapees Voice Message mailbox.
- More formal recognition in *Escapees* magazine and other Escapees publications when possible.

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