

Setting Local Chapter Goals

Every chapter is unique depending on the experience and passions of its members and of the community it serves. We find that when a chapter writes down its goals and the steps for meeting those goals, success is much more likely. Some chapters focus on training and outreach to the general community in the area of nonviolence or nonviolent conflict intervention. Other chapters host speakers for public outreach. These are excellent opportunities for introducing the public to the work of Nonviolent Peaceforce and unarmed civilian peacekeeping in general. These types of events can also bring in significant donations.

Included in goals are administrative goals for growth, meetings and planning. More important than specifying the number of meetings is a commitment to setting action goals and working on them, i.e., a chapter is not a group of people who meet monthly to only talk about nonviolence but rather to discuss ways of increasing public awareness of nonviolence and the ways it's used by NP teams in conflict areas.

We highly recommend writing out your chapter goals. The following is provided as an example of goals.

1. To ensure that all chapter members have the opportunity to serve and take ownership of chapter functions and committees, we will continually train new chapter leaders, and extend leadership opportunities to all members.
2. This year we will hold ___ Monthly Chapter Meetings and expand our Meeting Planner and Organizing Committee to ___ members.
3. This year we intend to increase our chapter membership by bringing in ___ new members and identify ___ new Member Orientation Volunteers.
4. This year we will make ___ presentations on behalf of NP. Within our chapter we will increase to ___ the number of members who are comfortable with delivering (with DVD or PowerPoint) a 15 or 30 minute presentation and answering questions. We will increase to ___ the number of members who will work to secure speaking opportunities, and assist with the related logistics.

Here are some examples of activities that local chapters may commit to as part of their annual goals:

NCI trainings, fundraising events, information tabling, speaking about NP, organizing or co-organizing local peace teams, working primarily on NP/USNPCA national or international work, bringing in a speaker (Mel Duncan is often available), etc.

Remember that having fun is also important for developing strong community. Socializing with each other, having picnics and sharing in other learning experiences as a group will increase cohesion and make the chapter experience more rewarding for everyone.

Chapter Expectations

The USNPCA recognizes that there are many ways in which local groups of dedicated peace advocates wish to contribute. For that reason our chapters are allowed a great amount of flexibility and autonomy in their operation. There are, however, some minimal expectations of the chapters.

- One annual fundraiser, or fundraising at several smaller events as is suitable to your region or community.
- Submission of contact information collected at events to the main office for addition to the NP database (see the attached Excel Spreadsheet with instructions).
- Acting as NP liaison to your local community by providing media/news materials and raising awareness of unarmed civilian peacekeeping efforts. Review NP nonpartisanship policy if you have questions, or ask your mentor.
- Help in the development of new strategies for fulfilling our Mission Statement and our Statement of Purpose as given below. This can be done by sending one representative of your chapter to the annual USNPCA Conference.
- Connect with other Member Organizations of NP in your local area. Check the NP website for the list of MOs at <http://nonviolentpeaceforce.org/about/organizational-structure/member-organizations>
- Stay connected with other chapters by joining the Yahoo Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/USNPCA/>

USNPCA Mission Statement

The U.S. Nonviolent Peaceforce Chapters Association nurtures a powerful network of local chapters that help Nonviolent Peaceforce build an unarmed international civilian peace force. Through working in association with other chapters and member organizations, each chapter becomes a stronger advocate for the Nonviolent Peaceforce, for the practice of nonviolence locally, and to create a sustainable peace throughout the world.

USNPCA Statement of Purpose

USNPCA is an organization comprised of Nonviolent Peaceforce Local Chapters throughout the United States. Local Chapters were created specifically to support the work of the Nonviolent

Peaceforce. In January 2006 the Chapters came together as USNPCA and began functioning as an independent member organization.

USNPCA is strongly committed to NP and its mission. We exist as an organization to:

- Promote and publicize NP locally, in the media, and through our networks
- Fundraise to support the work of NP
- Represent the interests of NP within our respective spheres of influence
- Help with recruitment by actively soliciting applications within our networks
- Bring a regional Nonviolent Conflict Intervention training program to our communities, to expand the pool of people who are trained in basic skills
- Provide volunteers in service to NP

Following a vote by Local Chapter members, USNPCA was officially established as an Association in January, 2006.

In February, 2006, USNPCA submitted an application to the International Governing Council (IGC) to become an official Member Organization (MO) of Nonviolent Peaceforce. The Association's status as an MO was granted shortly thereafter.