



Forming a Ghost Hunting Club – Part 3

Networking

Networking is an important tool to build credibility and recognition in your community. It allows you to build credibility and share evidence. It also promotes integrity within the paranormal community and will ultimately open more doors for investigations. If you handle this right, you will find an amazing amount of resources available to you.

Other paranormal groups are a great place to begin your community networking. When you decide you want to investigate the paranormal, begin by doing a search to see if there are other groups already working in your area. Are there investigator associations you can join? If there are, do so immediately and start making contacts with other investigators.

You may even want to initially become a member of another established group. But be careful to be honest about your intentions if you decide to go this route. Nothing will alienate you faster than taking advantage of the training that is offered if you don't plan to stay and pay them back with service. Always be honest and above board. Tell them up front that your goal is to start your own group. Ask advice on getting started. No one knows better what kind of problems you will face than someone who's already been there. Who knows, they may offer to provide you with more help than you could ever have dreamed. Just be aware that if you do decide to take a covert path and aren't honest about your intentions to form your own group, you may face a very angry organization who is, let's face it, more established in your community than you. People who feel betrayed can very easily harm your chances of getting your own group off the ground.

Conferences are another source of information and a way for you to meet others in the paranormal community. Each year groups get together to provide each other with opportunities to meet and discuss issues that are relevant to the paranormal community. There are several large regional or national shows as well as smaller local conferences. Attend as many as you can afford and get involved. You might even offer to help out with your next local conference or sign up to provide a presentation.

There are other organizations in your community that can help you get established. Join as many as possible and work within your community to demonstrate you are responsible and honest. You might be amazed at how many doors it will open for you.

- Historical societies – Most communities have some kind of historic society that maintains the records for the community. Contact those in your surrounding area and volunteer your time. Not only will this ultimately be a great resource for researching investigation details but it will also help you add color to your group bio.
- Genealogical Societies are also a great source of reference material. Many, in fact, perform cemetery maintenance and will be a great source of access to those locations.
- Business Associations provide support for local entrepreneurs and can provide the same kind of support for your organization. If your community is small, you may already know many of these business owners but if your community is larger joining organizations like the chamber of commerce will help you promote your group and possibly gain access to locations you never knew existed.

Whether you chose to do one or all of the suggestions above, networking will be an invaluable tool to promoting your group and establishing your integrity.