

# Toolkit: How to Start a Friends of Random Acts Group

“Friends of Random Acts” groups are not officially affiliated with Random Acts, in that you have more freedom to create programs and fundraise without having to go through the same hoops, but Random Acts is greatly supportive of groups forming. We appreciate everything the groups do, and encourage you to apply for a Random Acts grant for project-specific funding!

1. **Contact your regional representative**, if there is one in your area, and **make sure a group doesn't already exist!** Visit [www.randomacts.org/regions/](http://www.randomacts.org/regions/) to find a list of regional representatives.
2. **Find a friend or two** who want to take the initial journey with you to organize the group. You can try to organize the group from the get-go on your own, but in our experience it is helpful to have a friend.
3. **Recruitment: post on all forms of social media** that you are trying to form a regional “Friends of Random Acts” group. **Create a Facebook page and/or Twitter account** so that people can join to get centralized messages from the group.  
*NOTE: You can name the group something like “Friends of Random Acts NYC”*
4. **Decide how you are going to communicate as a group!** You can do it via email, Twitter direct messages, or Facebook messages. **We recommend that you create two different threads.** One for fun messages (about things like fandom, book recommendations, and general life happenings), and one thread for business messages.
5. **Check-In with the Random Acts regional rep** to tell them how it's going and ask for any advice!
6. **Send a business message telling everyone it's time to meet!** You can chat in the message thread to find the best time, or even use a free online scheduling system like [doodle.com](http://doodle.com) to aid you in finding a time.
7. It's now time to **host your first meeting!** Read our “Running a Meeting” Toolkit for guidance on best practices for running a meeting.

