



foodsecurity
FOR AMERICA

Affiliate Agreement

The undersigned certifies that _____
Name of Organization

manages each Food Security Group according to the following principles and standards:

1. Food Security Groups encourage people in healthy living and spiritual growth while providing food security for the vulnerable. They operate in every way to the benefit of the members.
2. Organizations managing Food Security Groups should promote the guiding principle stated in the Membership Agreement: “Each Food Security Group thrives when the members have a desire to make it succeed...This is OUR Food Security Group! We will cooperate together and endeavor to make it strong and successful.”

Staff should avoid the temptation to quickly solve questions, problems and issues themselves. Rather, the Food Security Group Steering Committee should be consulted and resolve all but the most sensitive matters.

3. In order to meet the national goal of creating food security, Food Security Groups meet bi-weekly or semi-monthly (24 – 26 meetings a year), not monthly. Monthly food distribution is associated with gorging and obesity.
4. Organizations managing Food Security Groups are **never** to exploit the membership in any regard; most specifically,

A. Members are not to be asked to volunteer for any tasks beyond what are necessary and desirable for the overall benefit of the Food Security Group. Members are always invited to self-select from among a wide variety of opportunities related to supporting the Food Security Group: unloading the truck, sorting the food, straightening up afterward (to the extent of returning the facility to the condition before the start of the Food Security Group meeting), signing people in, creating nametags, etc., are all tasks that benefit the overall Food Security Group. **Not** related: mowing the lawn, cleaning areas used more frequently by others, general facility maintenance, painting, office work for non-Food Security Group purposes, etc. Such work should be on a paid basis.

B. Each distinct Food Security Group determines what forms of spiritual expression the membership desires. Food Security Groups should **not** be seen as opportunities to proselytize for any one religion or denomination. Staff should promote the free and open expression of individual faith and beliefs, while guarding against pressure to conform to any particular theological dogma. Staff should remind the membership, as necessary, that everyone of any faith is welcome. The option to “step outside” during the spiritual time must be provided.

5. The primary purpose of a membership fee is for the dignity of the member, who retains self-respect by paying to belong to a Food Security Group instead of receiving a handout. Membership fees **never** pay for the food.

A. Membership fees are to remain nominal: no more than a \$7 joining fee, and no more than a \$3 - \$5 bi-weekly or semi-monthly membership fee.

B. The organization’s routine accounting records show a separate income stream that is well above and beyond total food costs.

C. The organization’s routine accounting records show a separate cost center, line item or bank account segregating the fees paid by members.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____