

SNOWSTAR ASSOCIATED COMMUNITY (SSAC) INFORMATION KIT

DESCRIPTION

What is a SSAC? A SSAC is a local community affiliated with the SnowStar Institute of Religion. A SSAC is a group of people with a common interest in SnowStar, its projects, aims, and community ideals. SSACs are open to all irrespective of one's religious tradition or lack of religious tradition. A SSAC is a forum for meeting, discussing, and celebrating diversity in culture, opinion, and questions about life. SSACs are welcoming of contemporary scholarship, new ideas, and radical enquiry. SSACs are communities of solidarity for people who place a high priority on searching and discovering.

TYPES OF SSAC

There are three main types of SSACs.

1. Informal SSAC

An informal SSAC is a community or institution already in place with its regular meetings or schedules. Such a community need not meet or change in any way. An Informal SSAC simply identifies a community that wishes to receive mailings or information related to the SnowStar Institute and its events (such as its annual conference). An informal SSAC and its members may receive up to a 10% discount on SnowStar materials, books, or events. Such a discount is entitled a "Friend of SnowStar" discount.

2. Intentional SSAC

An Intentional SSAC is a group or community that meets deliberately as a local SnowStar chapter. Such a group need not include only "SnowStar" members; however, such a group must be led by (or have its board made up of) a SnowStar member or members. Intentional SSACs meet as frequently as they may deem desirable and may carry on discussions both personally or electronically, as the situation may require. An Intentional SSAC may be called a "Chapter" of the SnowStar Institute provided the Chapter agrees to observe the basic guidelines of the SnowStar Institute (see Chapter Guidelines). There is no discount to be observed as SnowStar members already receive the highest discounts possible. Membership discounts are entitled a "Member of SnowStar" discount. However, person in an Intentional SACC who are not SnowStar members may receive the "Friend of SnowStar" discount.

3. Institutional SSAC

An Institutional SSAC is a formal religious community, such as a church, synagogue, mosque, or temple that holds an Institutional Membership in the SnowStar Institute. Institutional memberships include AXIAL and In The Meantime mailings, informational mailings, and discounts for members of the institution. Such discounts are up to 10% off and are called an "Institution of SnowStar" discount.

BASIC PURPOSE

The basic purpose of the SSAC initiative of the SnowStar Institute is straightforward. SSACs represent the effort of the SnowStar Institute to fulfill its mandate of religious literacy and tolerance by reaching out to society. The aim of the SSAC initiative, in this regard, is twofold: 1) EITHER to establish communities that receive information from SnowStar deemed helpful (for informal or institutional communities); 2) OR to establish and maintain a community of solidarity for those directly involved in SnowStar and its undertakings.

FORM A SSAC

Individuals or communities are invited to form a SSAC. If the SSAC is formed at the level of already existing groups, such as an Informal SSAC or an Institutional SSAC, no change or obligation is necessary. An individual or official representative of a group, board, or institution may fill out the appropriate form (See Informal or Institutional SSAC Application) and begin to receive information or materials from the SnowStar Institute.

Individuals or communities that want to form an Intentional SSAC also need to fill out the appropriate form (Intentional SSAC Form) as well as sign the Intentional SSAC Agreement form. The agreement form asks that the Intentional SSAC adhere to the basic philosophy of SnowStar and hold as its leadership a member or members of the SnowStar Institute. Once the agreement is signed, SnowStar will assign a Chapter number and name to the Intentional SSAC.

Any individual or group that wishes to be or form a SSAC in any one of the three categories is asked to contact the London SSAC (Chapter 1). Completed forms may be sent to President David Galston or more information may be requested. CONTACT: David Galston, 708 Rymal Road East, Hamilton, ON L8W 1B3 (david@snowstarinstitute.org).

GET INTO A SSAC

Individuals or groups that are interested in finding a SSAC community in which they may be involved are directed to the following options. The SnowStar Institute webpage keeps an updated contact list of Intentional SSAC Leaders wherever they exist in Canada or Internationally. The first place to look may be the webpage to determine if local contact information is available. Please check www.snowstarinstitute.org/SSAC.

Alternatively, the SnowStar Institute's President directly. E-mail david@snowstarinstitute.org or phone 905-577-5726. OR call the SnowStar office, toll-free, at 1-888-741-1420.