

Scattered Families™

ORGANISING LOCAL CHATS OR MEET UPS FOR SCATTERED FAMILIES GROUP MEMBERS

From time to time Scattered Families members ask us if we can organise local groups for their area or members will use the main page to reach out to contact other members near to them.

Please remember that as our members (over 1200) are currently drawn from hundreds of localities and regions across 30 different countries it would be impossible for us to organise groups but we are very happy for individuals to get together themselves.

For those members who are trying to sort out get togethers, or even just a local or online chat option, we have just created an online Directory of Local Meet Up groups (April 2025). Although the directory is small at the moment, we hope it will grow. The directory is available only to members of our Facebook group where full details of how to use it are regularly made available.

If you can't find a group near you already on the directory, then each month we create a post on our main Facebook page to enable you to give a shout out (via 'Comments') to other members in your area and make the initial contact with them.

The post will be called **"Find Members in Your Area — Connect Locally!"**

It will:

- Be open at the start of each month for **3 days**.
- Let you **comment and give your location** so others nearby can get in touch
- Encourage you to **move detailed discussions and planning to private messages**
- As a result, keep the main group feed free from lots of small meetup updates

If local members arrange an activity or get-together, you'll be able to advertise it using the **Events tab** on our page, so others in your area can join if they wish.

Following on from there, there seem to be several avenues to enable you to link up with others who are in your area, stay in touch and maybe even organise a meetup:

1. Create a 'WhatsApp' group: A WhatsApp group is probably the simplest option, but it does involve you swapping your private mobile phone contact details with interested parties. WhatsApp is available in a huge number of countries but of course other communication channels also exist. A number of our members have opted to create their own area-specific WhatsApp group and say it works well for them.

2. Create a Facebook Messenger Group: You can create a Facebook Messenger group and invite other members to join. One of our members has kindly trialled this and has very helpfully created a how-to guide, with screenshots. You can find her guide on the Scattered Families website in the 'Resources' section.

3. Create a separate Facebook Group: This will involve more work as you'd need to create a Facebook Group from scratch and will need someone to run it and be Admin.

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If you go down this 3rd option (a new FB group), can we respectfully ask you to give your new FB group a name that **doesn't** include the words '**Scattered Families**' since this is likely to cause confusion for people searching for and wanting to join our group. There is the possibility that there could be many local groups in the future as more and more people get together, so please think of individual distinctive names. Thank you in advance for your co-operation in this.

Having set up your group, please then add it to the MeetUp Directory so that other members can find you easily. Full instructions on how to do this can be found on the Facebook group page.

Hopefully, all the above goes some way to helping those Scattered Families members who are trying to connect locally, but are not sure how to go about it, particularly those members who want to take up the challenge of organising meetups!

Please keep the following in mind when attending local meetups:

- All local meetups listed in our directory are informal and independently arranged by members. They are not affiliated with or organised by the group admins or moderators, and we are not responsible for any interactions, outcomes, or experiences at these gatherings.
- Please meet in public places, especially if you're meeting someone for the first time.
- Be mindful of what personal information you choose to share.
- Respect others' boundaries and privacy—what's shared in confidence should remain that way.

Let's continue to build a warm, caring community—both online and in person—with kindness and mutual respect