

82nd Airborne Division Association

How to Start a New Chapter

The formation of new chapters in the Association is a means of extending Airborne camaraderie to non-member troopers who live far from existing chapters. In existing chapters, distance to meeting locations is a factor that causes many chapters to have inactive members and/or a membership retention problem. A new chapter could change this around.

The following guidelines will assist any trooper in starting a chapter:

1. Have the interest of at least three or four other troopers in your area who would like to see an Association Chapter formed.
2. Notify Association Headquarters that you are interested in forming a chapter in a certain area. You may not be aware that one already exists there. The Executive Director, an Officer, or Director of the Association will be glad to assist in the formation of a new chapter if it is feasible.
3. If the Executive Director sees the potential for a Chapter in your area, he will send you a list of troopers living in your area, and a Starter Kit. This kit contains all kinds of information on getting started, how chapters function, and benefits of membership.
4. Be sure that you have chosen a date, time, and place to announce when you plan to form this chapter. Get it in the papers in advance and on the radio and TV stations. Talk of getting together is useless without a specific plan to meet.
5. Send a letter to invite each trooper on the list to become a charter member of the new chapter (Sample letter on the next page. Below is a sample postcard to be enclosed with letter).
6. A must is that you make direct contact with your local newspaper, radio, and TV stations to have the best local coverage possible. This way you cover your area to get as many area members as possible.
7. Have a chapter as an All-Airborne group and not just the 82nd, which will make your chapter larger with members from various units that live within your area and cannot make their association functions during the year. They will take part in yours, if it is convenient.
8. Get active in local activities to get continual exposure in your area. This finds more members and new troopers when they move into your area.

9. Wear items that identify you as Airborne, such as t-shirts, belt buckles, lapel pins, jackets, etc. This is a sure way to bring in members who were unaware of a chapter starting.
10. An Airborne display in an area mall is an excellent way to let troopers know your around and forming a chapter.

Along with the letter (sample letter on next page) sent to troopers to determine interest in starting a chapter, enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard for prompt response.

Sample Postcard

Dear _____:

___ Yes, I am interested and will meet with you

___ I cannot meet with you but am interested in starting a chapter.

___ No, I am not interested.

Name

Address

Phone #

Best Time to Call

Airborne Unit

82nd Airborne Division Association

Starting a New Chapter

Sample Letter of Interest

Date

Dear Fellow Trooper;

My name is _____ and I'm a former Airborne trooper who lives in _____(city). I would like to invite you to a meeting to see if there is interest in setting up an "All-Airborne" Chapter under the umbrella of the 82nd Airborne Division Association in our area. It makes no difference if you were 11th, 17th, 101st, or any other Airborne qualified.

By having a chapter in this area, we would be able to have our own meetings, Color Guard, family picnics, etc., not to mention the great Airborne camaraderie! Troopers who reside in this area are too far from existing Association chapters to be active in them.

Benefits of being within the 82nd Airborne Division Association include being able to attend All-American Week at Fort Bragg, annually (open to Chapter members and family only), attendance at annual Conventions, scholarship opportunities for dependents, assistance with VA claims, access to the quarterly Paraglide magazine, and more. The Association received a Federal Charter from Congress in 1990, another plus for members!

I have set up a meeting:

Date:

Time:

Location:

Please call and let me know if you would be willing to attend, or, if you cannot attend, if you would be interest in starting a new chapter.

AIRBORNE!

Name

Address

Phone#