How to Start and Maintain a Ram Network or Affinity Group

Mission of a Ram Network/Affinity Group
Supporting the overall mission of the CSU Alumni Association, Ram Networks/Affinity Groups are volunteer organizations, created according to geographic region or common interest, committed to fostering relationships among alumni and with the University.

In response to alumni interest and needs, Ram Networks/Affinity Groups bring together fellow Rams to make meaningful connections for their personal and professional lives. These volunteer planning groups can host events in the areas of professional development, athletics/recreation, family-friendly, community service and/or arts and education. Events are open to all alumni, as well as their families and friends.

Purpose of Ram Networks/Affinity Groups
- Build and celebrate pride in the University by participating in CSU traditions;
- Serve as ambassadors for educating and promoting the University to alumni through active engagement;
- Create and personally support a culture of giving to CSU;
- Help the CSU Alumni Association determine, plan, and promote programming that connects back to CSU;
- Serve as a professional/social resource for alumni in order to foster a sense of community.

How Can I Start a Ram Network/Affinity Group?
Once we determine that enough alumni live in your area (>500 people w/in 60 mile radius) or are officially recognized CSU student organization or activity, we can start building an alumni group! The CSU Alumni Association supports Ram Networks by helping recruit and train volunteers, managing communications, and providing logistical support for events. In order to be recognized as an official Ram Network/Affinity Group, the following requirements must be met:

1. Serve one (1) year as an "Emerging Ram Network/Affinity Group" which includes the following requirements:
   a. Host or Support a Rocky Mountain Showdown watch party each fall;
   b. Host a CSUnity: Alumni Day of Service project in April;
   c. Host one (1) volunteer recruitment event (i.e. breakfast, happy hour);
   d. Host quarterly volunteer planning meetings (in person or conference call) and share notes from those meetings with CSU staff so they may support your efforts;
   e. Participate in at least one Volunteer Development webinar per year which will focus on different topics including program development, volunteer management and event promotion;
   f. Commit to recruiting additional volunteer support by responding to e-mail inquiries from interested alumni or engaging event attendees in one-on-one conversations.

2. Join the CSU Alumni Association as an Annual or Life Member within six-months of Ram Network/Affinity Group start date. Membership dues support Alumni Association events and programs. Your membership dollars directly support your efforts in engaging fellow alumni and building a CSU community in your area!

3. Maintain regular contact with CSU Alumni Association staff to help plan, publicize, execute and evaluate events. It is also important to share any feedback, ideas, suggestions or complaints you may receive from alumni. This information can help the Alumni Association enhance our services or make changes to better serve all of our alumni.

4. A minimum of three (3) volunteers must complete the Alumni Association Online Volunteer Training program which provides basic information about CSU, the Alumni Association, and volunteer expectations. The minimum volunteer number helps ensure the creation of a sustainable Ram Network as well as provide enough feedback and support to create quality programs for local CSU alumni.

For more information or to express an interest in starting a new Ram Network or Affinity Group, please contact:
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