

ADOPTTEEN

Hangouts

Adopteen is a collaborative space for adoptees, by adoptees, to create a community all their own.

As of 2018, Adopteen will have held 18 large scale Camp-Conferences in twelve different locations across North America, volunteered with groups of adoptees in eight orphanages, and hosted countless local events for adoptees in our Colorado hometown. In total, we have touched the lives of over 1,000 adoptees.

We are extraordinarily proud of everything that we have accomplished since debuting with our first Camp-Conference in 2008 - ten years ago! But we know we can do better. That is why our goal for 2018 is expansion. We want to make Adopteen accessible to more people in more places, more often and for less money.

In 2017, Adopteen began Hangouts near our home office in Denver. Hangouts are monthly or semi-monthly events focused on building community in your area. These events offer a more relaxed and low-key environment than other Adopteen activities, and are entirely planned and coordinated by a local adoptee. Activities are planned on a weekend night and last for only a few hours, and the only fee is whatever the price of admission is for that night's activity. Hangouts can be a movie, laser tag, or even a pot luck at a friends house. Unlike other Adopteen events, attendees are encouraged to bring siblings or friends that aren't adopted (still no parents!). What's most important is that adoptees are getting together and creating a community all their own.

But wait - we can't do any of this without you:

It's not possible for our Adopteen staff to start and run Hangouts in regions across the country. For any of this to work, we need dedicated, responsible adoptees to lead the charge! Are you interested in leading a group in your area? Great!



Coordinator Requirements:

Must be adopted. Obviously. All of Adopteen's programming is made for and by adoptees.

Must be 18 or older. We know there are a lot of amazing, responsible people still in high school that want to start a group. However, Adopteen needs an adult at each Hangout to make sure everything is okay and running smoothly.

Must be available. This one is important. Our vision of Adopteen Hangouts centers around having coordinators that are responsible and dedicated to spending a Saturday each month with their group. You will be the point of contact for every participant and "lead" every activity. Rain or shine, we expect that you will be there for your community - whether you are responsible for a group of five or fifty. Please do not contact us about starting a Hangout group unless you are absolutely certain you can make this sort of commitment to your group for at least a year.

How do I get started? Give us a call at (303) 850-9998 x. 26 or email us at info@adopteen.org. We want to get to know you and hear your vision for an Adopteen group in your area. From there, we will ask you to propose a year's worth of monthly or semi-monthly Hangouts centered around your community. Before we give your group the green light to operate as an official Adopteen community, you will need to pass a soft background check.

Please take this process very seriously - we do not take this lightly and want to make sure that every group we allow to operate as a branch of Adopteen will be successful, in responsible, trustworthy hands, and operate with our mission and values in mind.

What is Adopteen's role in my community?

Coordinators will meet with Adopteen staff over video call once a month to discuss any updates with their group, game plan for upcoming events, and share any feedback from their community. Adopteen will also assist in marketing upcoming events and sharing the great things you're doing with the wider Adopteen audience.

About Adopteen: So what is Adopteen all about, and what do we expect you to take to heart as a regional coordinator?

It comes down to our tagline: *Celebration, Inspiration, Pride*. We are all about celebrating each other as individuals and as a community, inspiring fellow adoptees and friends in the larger community around us, and taking pride in where we have been, where we are right now, and where we're going.

At Adopteen, we want to provide a unique space for teen and young adult adoptees to share and grow without adult interference, and ensure that anyone who wants to participate, regardless of birth country or agency, is able to do so, without hesitation.

Adopteen grew out of our experience with the Chinese adoptee community and as a reaction to the lack of Chinese adoptee role models and community in our lives at that time - a problem that we since realize is prevalent in all adoptee communities. We will always seek to enrich our adoptee community, while at the same time having more fun than anyone else.

That's it! We are incredibly excited to work with you, and hope that you'll take this gigantic, nerve-wracking step forward with us.

