



## Join the A-Team!

**You can organize a group to reach out to voters, elect Democrats to the House and Senate, save our democracy, and have a great time doing it!**

### Overview

Activate America provides tools for individual volunteers and grassroots groups to reach out to voters and help elect Democrats to the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. We focus on close races where every vote counts to make the best use of your time and resources! Our volunteers make millions of voter contacts by making calls, sending texts, and writing postcards.

### What is the A-Team?

The Activate America A-Team consists of over 200 groups, which include chapters of national organizations, as well as small grassroots groups of friends or neighbors. Activate America provides tools, training, scripts, and more to A-Team members. We also have an optional monthly Zoom meeting for A-Team group leaders to discuss the latest developments in our target races and hear about upcoming action opportunities. **Any individual volunteer can start an A-Team group—it's easy and fun.**

### How to start an A-Team group:

#### Who will you gather?

Make a list of friends or family you think might be interested. It doesn't have to be big. Do you know 3-5 friends who you want to work on this with? Is there a group or organization you are already part of that might want to engage? A book group? Knitting circle? Reach out to a few people who are enthusiastic about electing Democrats into office and invite them for an initial conversation.

#### When will you gather?

- Pick a date for an initial meeting. Your group can meet virtually or in-person depending on everyone's needs and preferences.

#### Send out an invitation

- Send an email inviting folks to join your group. If you don't hear back, follow up with phone calls.

#### Prepare for the meeting

- Develop a meeting agenda. Here is an example:
  - Introductions
  - Group mission and goals
  - Discussion of preferred activities and meeting frequency



- Postcard writing (or phone banking or other action)
- Debrief and set next meeting date
- If you plan to write postcards at the meeting:
  - Email [Anna@ActivateAmerica.vote](mailto:Anna@ActivateAmerica.vote) to get instructions, addresses and a script. You can estimate 10 to 15 addresses per participant.
  - Purchase postcards and stamps. You can find guidance for that by [clicking here](#).
  - We suggest that hosts provide postcards, stamps, and pens for the first meeting, but can ask guests for donations to offset the costs. Alternatively, you can ask guests to bring postcards and stamps.
- If you plan to phonebank, email [Shelby@ActivateAmerica.vote](mailto:Shelby@ActivateAmerica.vote) to arrange for a trainer.

## **Host the meeting/Make it social.**

### ***In-Person Events***

- Make sure to introduce people to each other and orient each person to the activity.
- Food and drinks are always a good idea. Nothing fancy is needed.

### ***Virtual Events***

- Have everyone introduce themselves and why they are there.
- If you are writing postcards, you might play background music and have everyone stop and check in after 20 minutes or so; for phone banks, check-in after 30 minutes.

## **Follow Up**

- Establish a routine meeting schedule, whether it's weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly.
- Share updates and keep everyone informed on progress and upcoming events. Email, group text messaging, Slack, or a Facebook group are great ways to stay connected and informed as a group. Choose a platform that works best for your members.

## **Celebrate your achievements!**

- Recognize the hard work of your group and celebrate when you reach a milestone.
- Be sure to send out thank you's to your participants!

## **Stay flexible and mix it up.**

- Listen to feedback from your members and make adjustments when needed.
- Alternate between phone banking and postcard writing to keep things fresh. Or write postcards until a certain date - maybe mid-October? And then commit to phone banking through November 4!
- Consider a canvassing trip!

**If you are ready to engage, email [info@activateamerica.vote](mailto:info@activateamerica.vote) and someone from Activate America will reach out to you.**