

FAQ Sheet for Prospective Hosts of WAVES Virtual Communities:

1. What is the purpose of a WAVES virtual community?

The purpose is to provide an opportunity for teens across Maine to connect safely and socially around a shared affinity.

2. What are you thinking of? Some examples, please?

Virtual Community host applicants are encouraged to be creative and consider their own interests, their students' interests, and their own experiences around how teens connect with adults and to each other when creating a virtual community. Examples below are only provided to support creative thinking, and not to hinder or restrict it:

- Poetry Club
- [Citizen Science](#) group
- Knitting Circle (hosts may request materials to be sent to participants)
- Use any of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife [resources](#) to host a Scavenger Hunt or Sound Mapping community, for example.
- Theater group
- Environmental Activism community
- Yoga and Mindfulness
- Film Society
- Outdoor exploration
- FAFSA/College exploration support

3. What's expected of me if I apply to host a virtual community?

It's important to make the expectations clear, in the interest of our teens' safety, and to make sure we honor your time, professionalism, and expertise.

We expect virtual community hosts to:

- Hold a current CHRC background check;
- Host regular virtual meetings (at least monthly) outside of traditional school hours;
- Support ongoing communication among the virtual community;
- Commit at least 6 hours per month to leading and sustaining the virtual community, from virtual community start date through at least September 30, 2021;
- Save the chat from every meeting and include it in feedback form submitted to the WAVES Project Director at the conclusion of each meeting;
- Ensure the safety and well-being of virtual community members, and immediately notify the Project Director of any related concerns;
- Not record virtual meetings, except with prior approval from the MDOE, participants, and participants' legal guardians;

- Collaboratively develop group norms and consistently reinforce and revisit them to ensure a safe and inclusive virtual environment.

4. How can I expect to be supported by WAVES as a virtual community host?

We are committed to supporting our hosts and making sure our virtual communities are safe and inclusive.

To this end, WAVES will:

- Provide a \$150 stipend/month for Virtual Community hosts;
- Provide access to a zoom account for virtual meetings;
- Maintain a registration process for teens engaging in virtual communities and share contact information and other relevant registration information with virtual community hosts;
- Be responsive to virtual communities' feedback;
- Provide materials and supplies for virtual community members, to ensure equity, on a case-by-case basis and depending on budget constraints and allowable expenses.

5. I'd like to host a virtual community. What next?

Please submit the Virtual Community Host [application](#) and you'll hear back shortly so we may work collaboratively to start your virtual community and invite teens to join!