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Resources

Where do you go from here?

The focus of this handbook has been to help you get started in the first year. Establishing your Friends group is just the beginning. We expect that you will have a busy year and many accomplishments over the next several months. Once you have established your group, you'll be asking what's next? You will also be working to build a stable organization that will have a long future.

The National Wildlife Refuge Association is dedicated to helping your group successfully meet its new challenges. Over the next couple of years, we will offer a number of programs to new and well-established groups.* These will include:

- Workshops on getting started, fundraising and outreach.
- A Friends/NWRA joint membership program.
- Local networking programs for Friends groups in small geographic areas to meet and work together on local interests.
- An expanded Friends section in the NWRA quarterly newsletter.
- An expanded Friends section in Refuge Net, our web site on the Internet. We plan to make handbook materials available on this web site and will provide a Friends bulletin board for easy communications.
- Opportunity to become involved in regional and national policy and media initiatives.
- An annual National Refuge Friends Conference in Washington, D.C.

Assistance is also available from a variety of other sources, such as other Friends groups, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Center for Nonprofit Boards and local and national conservation organizations. We have listed ways to contact these and other resources in the next few pages.

If you have any additional questions or need help, be sure to contact us either by telephone at (202) 333-9075 or Email at NWRA@refugenet.org.

(*All programs are dependent upon funding.)

Internet resources

✓ RefugeNET is the National Wildlife Refuge Association's web site on the Internet. This site contains a wealth of information about the refuge system, a directory of Friends groups, and action alerts. It's a great place to begin networking! <http://www.refugenet.org>

✓ National Center for Nonprofit Boards is a good resource for all questions you might have about nonprofit organizations, including forming your board. <http://www.ncnb.org>

✓ The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service home page is a good place to learn about refuges all over the country. <http://www.fws.gov>

Resources from the National Wildlife Refuge Association

Call (202) 333-9075 to ask for:

✓ A Friends Directory listing all Friends groups across the nation.

✓ Information on workshops, regional and subregional networking meetings sponsored by the National Wildlife Refuge Association.

✓ Referrals or direct assistance on filing for non-profit status.

✓ Names of experienced Friends groups who are willing to lend their expertise to new groups.

✓ The Refuge Support Group mini-grant program, conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the National Audubon Society.

✓ Action Alerts on issues affecting the National Wildlife Refuge System, available through the NWRA Friends Listserve. To sign up for the Listserve, email owner-nwrafriends@lists.toad.net

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