

## smithsonian affiliations program overview

*Smithsonian Affiliations is a unique outreach initiative that connects the resources of the world's largest museum and research complex with educational organizations and their communities.*

Smithsonian Affiliations helps member organizations expand their offerings through a variety of collaboration opportunities including:

- Loans of artifacts, artworks, and scientific specimens
- Educational planning and programming for learners of all ages
- Teacher workshops, technical assistance, research and professional development
- Expert speakers and consultants in history, science, art, and culture.

A Smithsonian Affiliate may use the tag line, "In Association with the Smithsonian Institution" and the approved Smithsonian Affiliate logo.

Any 501(c)(3) nonprofit or publicly-operated entity can apply to become a Smithsonian Affiliate. The Smithsonian considers proposals from organizations whose missions and activities are appropriate for affiliation and will advance the Smithsonian's mission and [strategic plan](#).

Organizations interested in participating in the program need to apply following the steps set forth at [How to Apply](#).

After the proposal is reviewed and approved, the Smithsonian drafts an agreement that is signed by the Director of Smithsonian Affiliations and the authorized representative of the affiliating organization. The signed agreement, along with the payment of an annual fee, launches the affiliation and enables the affiliating organization to refer to itself as a "Smithsonian Affiliate" under the Smithsonian's guidelines for use of its name.

Smithsonian Affiliations will assign a National Outreach Manager to work directly with the new affiliating organization. The Outreach Manager will assist in linking the Affiliate to appropriate individuals and offices within the Smithsonian in order to facilitate the process of identifying potential loan artifacts, exhibitions, programmatic resources, or other collaboration opportunities. The Outreach Manager, in conjunction with other staff at the Smithsonian, will work with the Affiliate to determine the scope and feasibility of each request. The Affiliate is responsible for paying direct costs associated with bor-

rowing artifacts or obtaining other Smithsonian services. These may include conservation treatment, packing, shipping, insurance, and if necessary staff travel for installation and de-installation of exhibitions. Affiliate organizations may be eligible to receive financial support from the Smithsonian or other funders through participation in Smithsonian research or education projects.

The Affiliation agreement is intended to establish a long-term relationship between the Smithsonian and the affiliating organization. There is no time limitation on the relationship; it can last as long as both parties find it mutually beneficial. As long as the agreement is in place, the affiliating organization agrees to pay an annual fee, currently \$3,000, in order to cover administrative costs associated with the program. The agreement can be terminated at any time with the consent of both parties. The Smithsonian also retains the right to suspend or terminate an affiliation if the Affiliate fails to fulfill its obligations as stipulated in the [Affiliations Policy](#) or the agreement.

Smithsonian Affiliates enjoy a broad range of benefits including participation in the Smithsonian Affiliate Membership Program and the Smithsonian Affiliate Museum Reciprocal Membership program, as well as special opportunities offered by the *Smithsonian Magazine*, Smithsonian Journeys travel program, and Smithsonian Enterprises. An annual conference bring the entire Smithsonian Affiliate community to Washington, D.C. each year, where attendees are given behind-the-scenes tours of the Smithsonian, and engage directly with Smithsonian leadership, curators, educators, and other staff. Networks within the Smithsonian Affiliate community provide new avenues for regional, cultural, topical and audience-focused types of support and collaboration.