



## **BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP IN MULTIPLES OF AMERICA**

### **WHY BELONG TO MULTIPLES OF AMERICA?**

#### **GENERAL BENEFITS**

- To understand the core of the benefits of membership in Multiples of America aka National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs (NOMOTC), you need to understand Multiples of America's Mission Statement:

*The Multiples of America aka NOMOTC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to supporting families of multiple birth children through education, research, and networking. In partnering with local support groups, health care providers, researchers, and educators, and with the highest standards of integrity, respect and professionalism, we endeavor to aid parents of multiples and to raise public awareness of the unique qualities of multiple birth families.*

Multiples of America has history of almost 61 years of education, research and support. This continuity as an organization is a benefit. It gives us credibility, respect, and recognition in the public and in the media.

- i. We are constantly contacted by the media, casting directors, researchers and public for our expertise and knowledge regarding the world of multiple birth children and their parents and those who support them including educators and physicians.
- ii. Marketing and Publicity - national exposure of multiple birth issues as well as additional credibility, press releases and marketing materials, use of our brand
  - a) Multiples of America is constant. We offer year-round service to our members. We are not a "large club". We are a professional organization, a national non-profit, that operates year-round (like a business) to service our member clubs, members, affiliates and potential members.
  - b) Multiples of America is the foremost authority regarding the world of multiple birth children and their parents and those who support them like educators and physicians.
  - c) National publicity regarding multiple birth topics/issues. Media comes to our organization for information, research, statistics, etc.
  - d) Offers local clubs and members an opportunity to be a part of a larger group of local clubs or state organizations nationwide, as well as part of a worldwide network of multiple birth organizations.
  - e) By tapping into our network of member clubs, we are able to provide information on best practices based on almost 61 years of club networking.
  - f) Being a Part of the Greater Good.

Our organization helps parents of multiples find clubs, start clubs, find resources, helps media to find information/statistics, helps casting agents find actors for movies, ads, etc. And we assist researchers find subjects for their research. Multiples and twins in general are the perfect research subject as there is an automatic control subject. Research helps the

public in general and leads to finding causes and cures of many diseases and other medical issues. We can help make a difference with our participation in research.

- Education of Multiple Birth Children

This is the number one topic of information that is requested from Multiples of America.

- a) Multiples of America has been one of the main organizations that aided in developing surveys on how best to educate multiple birth children and compiled research and established guidelines on keeping multiple birth children together or separating them in classrooms to help parents and educators alike.
  - b) We have helped supply information that assisted states in passing “Twin Laws” that give the parents the right to have a say in whether multiples birth children should be together in same classroom and that no policy is the best policy when it comes to deciding this.
- Multiples of America has booklets (*Education of Multiple Birth Children*) and pamphlets (*Your Multiples and You*) that provide information to the public and parents of multiples. This gives us credibility and legitimizes the concerns of parenting multiples and gives all affiliated with our organization more recognition and respect.
  - Parents of Multiples can be a member of a local club or an Affiliate Member if there is no club in your area. Either way, you will get support, education, and resources to help you be the best parent of multiples you can be.
  - Multiples of America is a collective charter member of the International Society for Twin Studies (ISTS) [www.twinstudies.org](http://www.twinstudies.org) and member of the International Council of Multiple Birth Organizations (ICOMBO) [www.ICOMBO.org](http://www.ICOMBO.org). This gives us international credibility and the opportunity to network with these international organizations.
    - a) Multiples of America is known internationally by researchers and by other international Multiple Birth Organizations.
    - b) We have the opportunity to connect with other multiple birth parents through international organizations that we partner with. Together, we work to educate people and families with multiples, and the media and public on the joys and challenges of raising multiples.
    - c) We have assisted with important research and surveys including *Depression in Post-Partum Mothers of Multiples*, *Incontinence in Mothers of Multiples*, *Post Pregnancy Complications and Delivering Multiples* (international survey). We have also partnered with Multiple Birth Organizations around the world on surveys that impact multiple birth children and their parents globally.
  - Multiples of America partners with other organization and companies. This year we are pleased to partner with TWINS Magazine, Sidelines, Inc, Fetal Health Foundation, and Lily’s Hope and are always seeking out new partnership opportunities. Links to our partner organizations are on the website. We have also worked with Twins Talent (Ganz Twins), Fertility IQ, Twin Talk podcasts, Texas Children’s Hospital and Bed Rest Life Coach. This not only increases our outreach but also adds value to our members with additional opportunities and information.
  - Multiples of America assists State Organizations throughout the year. We are able to answer questions and give information to the state organizations. We have a share shop held each year for State Organizations at our annual convention in July. We also have a State Organization Directory that lists all state organizations, contact info and state conventions. This directory is posted on the website.
  - Broadening Our Reach to Local Parents of Multiples on the National Level.  
We come from so many different backgrounds and finding those friends and support through Convention or articles in *Multiple Connections* allows everyone to see that they too can survive and succeed parenting multiples from pregnancy, to infancy, to school-age to adults. We share real

stories of parents and multiples and the lives that they live. Our collective experiences weave a rich, diverse tapestry giving hope and useful information at every stage in the lives our multiples.

## **BENEFITS FOR CLUBS**

- Growth of local club's membership through "Find a local club" (<http://www.multiplesofamerica.org/find-a-club/>) database located on Multiples of America website ([www.multiplesofamerica.org](http://www.multiplesofamerica.org)).
  - a) Each year thousands of prospective parents of multiples looking for local clubs click on our "Find a Local Club". As a member club of Multiples of America, your club and club contacts are listed in our database. When a parent of multiples inputs their zip code or city in the "Find a Local Club section", links to a listing of local clubs and their websites are displayed. They can contact Multiples of America's Executive Office for club contacts. (To prevent spam and protect the privacy of our club contacts, we do not post club contact information on the website.) Our Executive Office responds to all email requests to assist with questions and give out contact information about finding a local club. Additional personnel in the Membership Department follow up to make sure members are "connected" with the local club in their area.
- Multiples of America assists parents of multiples in organizing a local club through our booklets "*How to Organize a Club*" (HTO) which we send out by request from our Executive Office. In the last few years we have sent out over a hundred HTO booklets.
  - a) Our Membership Coordinators are available to assist with questions or help problem solve throughout the organizing process and throughout the formation of the new club. The Membership Coordinators continue to keep in contact periodically with prospective new member clubs throughout the process of organizing the club and after their club is formed to answer questions and assist as needed.
  - b) Group Exemption for non-profit 501(c)(3) status under Multiples of America's umbrella. As a member club, your local club can receive 501(c)(3) status through Multiples of America as a subordinate chapter/club. Plus, your club gains the advantage of avoiding individual application for exemption. This tax status and the benefits it accords are not automatic, though. Documents must be filed every year by every club requesting this status. Multiples of America is then required to submit information on behalf of each of its subordinate chapters (clubs). Multiples of America reports any changes in purpose, character or method of operation, changes in name or address, and any withdrawals and/or additions of subordinate chapters.

With Multiples of America's classification, its subordinates receive the following benefits:

- a) The IRS will recognize your club as a subordinate chapter of Multiples of America.
- b) Then assignment of a Group Exemption Number (GEN) happens.
- c) With this ruling, subordinates may receive gifts and donations that are tax deductible by donors.
- d) A subordinate may apply for state tax exemption, if applicable. Most states will not classify a local chapter for sales tax exemption, unless federal exemption has already been granted.
- e) If club mailings are 200 or more pieces, a subordinate may apply for postal nonprofit rates, a substantial savings from regular bulk postal rates .
- f) Officers and committee chairmen can deduct out-of-pocket expenses in personal income tax returns, including mileage in conducting business. Further information for individuals is available in the IRS 1040 Packet, under instructions for Schedule A (contributions).
- g) Multiples of America will complete the Form 990-N, e-Postcard, on behalf of clubs with gross receipts less than \$50K. Clubs with gross receipts exceeding \$50K are required to file

Form 990 and will thus meet the reporting requirements related to Form 990–N. (For the definition of gross receipts, contact the Executive Office [info@multiplesofamerica.org](mailto:info@multiplesofamerica.org))

- Multiples of America’s Executive Office (EO)
  - a) Professional administrative office. The EO is the first impression that potential members, the public, researchers, and media receives for our organization and its local club members.
  - b) The EO provides information and assistance to new members and current members.
  - c) EO provides consistency for all paperwork including for Group Exemption, Dues Renewals, Electronic Mailings to Clubs and club referrals for new prospective members.
  - d) The EO gathers all Group Exemption information, files all paperwork, reminds clubs if paperwork is past due and assists with all questions as able. Filing of GE to IRS is a very long process that your club doesn’t have to do. You only need to send in your paperwork each year to us.
- Multiples of America’s e-publication, *Multiple Connections*, which comes out quarterly has informative articles and a column “Member Club Spotlight” which highlights club ideas and events from around the country. It also gives clubs the opportunity to submit events, outings and best practices to be published. This is sent to every member of your club.
- Multiples of America’s Website

The website is a mobile friendly site that provides a wealth of information to members and the public. In the “Members Only” section, there are documents to help club officers/board members, Annual Reports, information regarding acquiring and maintaining membership, bereavement support, single parent, LGBTQ support, and Higher Order Multiple support, social media information, scholarship information, information on Multiple Birth Awareness month and activities, publicity and links for Partner organizations and so much more. Additionally, there is a Blog section, and resources for programming for your club.

Access to Members Only section of our website [www.multiplesofamerica.org](http://www.multiplesofamerica.org) with information and resources available to all members in one convenient location including:

- a) Dues Renewal guidelines/forms and dues payment via PayPal
  - b) Membership forms to aid in joining or renewing membership
  - c) Group Exemption guidelines and forms
  - d) Multiples of America Support Services Information
  - e) State Organization Directory including state convention information
  - f) Monthly newsletter “*Multiple Messages*” with Multiples of America events and updates on what is happening in our departments and what your National Rep should be doing monthly.
  - g) Multiples of America Bylaws and Standing Rules posted to assist local clubs in developing or revising their own Bylaws/Standing Rules. Assistance from Multiples of America’s Parliamentarian is also available if needed.
  - h) Archived Multiples of America *Multiple Connections* and former *Notebook* including E-Mag links to view at member’s convenience.
  - i) Research Reports done by Multiples of America and professional research studies done by outside researchers about or involving multiples are available on request. We have over 125 studies and this continues to grow. If you would like a listing of archived studies, simply email the Executive office ([info@multiplesofamerica.org](mailto:info@multiplesofamerica.org)).
- Parliamentarian

Access to Multiples of America’s Parliamentarian (a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians) is available to personally and confidentially speak with members and clubs who have questions or issues within the club or to help clubs with Bylaws and Standing Rules. Our Parliamentarian can work as a mediator or neutral party to help with resolution.

- Membership Support Coordinators
  - a. Membership Support Coordinators include National Liaison, Higher Order Multiples Coordinator, Special Needs Coordinator, Single Parent Coordinator, Bereavement Coordinator, LGBT Support Coordinator and an Affiliate Member Coordinator are available to all clubs and members. The majority of smaller clubs do not have members with experience in all these areas and being able to tap into our larger membership and experience to offer assistance and resources is invaluable to members. Even large clubs who typically have these type of support positions as part of their officers, will see there is definitely added value when extra support and resources are needed. Think of a rare diagnosis or adoption of multiples or having multiple multiples. Having over 11,500 members allows us to give information, support and resources that many local clubs need but cannot offer.
  - b. National Liaison is also available for support and resources and to answer questions for National Representatives and for State Organizations.
- Multiples of America's Convention held in July is an opportunity to network with members and clubs from around the country to learn best practices and get answers to questions you may have; make your voice heard in elections, bylaw changes and other business at the General Session; learn how Robert's Rules of Order for parliamentary procedure work in business meetings; and so much more.
- Sharing Ideas from Club-to-Club
  - a) Multiples of America Convention offers share shops and workshops for clubs to attend (open to all members) including:
    - i. Club Networking Share Shop gives a forum to clubs for networking, problem solving and sharing of ideas for fundraising, keeping members, club functions, dealing with tough issues/members, etc.
    - ii. National Rep Share Shop that allows the club's National Rep and other club members to network and share ideas
    - iii. State Networking Share Shop gives the opportunity for State Organizations and those that are interested in developing a State Organization the chance to meet with other state organizations from around the country to network, share ideas, and problem solve.
    - iv. Development of webinars or short videos on various topics important to clubs is now available at different times throughout the year via the website in the Club Programming Resource area.
- Club to Club Support
  - a) Over 220 local member clubs in which to receive support and information
  - b) Easy connecting of clubs through Multiples of America. When disaster or tragedy strikes, Multiples of America is able to help clubs connect with the clubs in those areas to offer support and assistance. When the tornado went through Moore OK or the fires in California were burning, many clubs wanted to help and were able to easily connect because of our national membership.
- Research Opportunities - The club benefits with participation of research studies and surveys. Clubs can develop ideas for research studies that they can conduct amongst their members. Research Reports are the interpretation of the results of studies/surveys which can enlighten members on issues of parenting and raising multiples.
- Multiples of America EDGE/Endowment Special Fund Grants
 

Clubs can apply for a special grant for projects in which they would like funding assistance. A TIPS sheet for applying for grants is available and can be utilized when applying.

- Multiples of America Educational Scholarships are available to all members of a local member club who have been a member of that club for the past three years. In addition to the money shared through the scholarship, this also benefits clubs with retaining members.
- Resources available to assist local clubs in running their club
  - a. Club Tips for Local Club Presidents; Club Tips for Treasurers; Club Tips for Membership Chairman; Club Tips for National Reps; Club Tips for Secretary; Club Tips for Newsletter Editors; and Club Tips for Program Chairman; Club Tips for Installing Officers.
  - b. Club Tips in Handling School Issues; Club Tips for Keeping Experienced MOMs as Members; Club Tips for Social Media Policies; Club Tips for Smaller Clubs; Club Tips for Electronic Communications and Internet; Club Tips for Tough Issues Groups Face; Club; Tips for Bereavement Support; Club Tips for Group Exemption.
  - c. Some additional TIPS sheets are available on other topics as well.
- Ideas for Club Issues/Events
  - a) Ideas can be found in Multiples of America's quarterly e-publication, *Multiple Connections*
  - b) Social Media
    - i. Six Multiples of America/NOMOTC Facebook groups/pages including:
      - Members Only Page – private group for members of Multiples of America
      - Convention Page – for sharing the latest information about convention
      - Higher Order Multiples – private members only group page
      - Special Needs – private group page
      - LGBT Support Page – private Members Only group page
      - Leadership Shareshop – private page for up to three club leaders to maintain club equity and network with other club leaders across the country to ask questions, discover best practices and more.
    - ii. Multiples of America Twitter
 

You can now follow us on Twitter <https://twitter.com/@MultiplesUSA>

\*Coming soon – Multiples of America Linked In account
- Media Connection
 

From casting calls to Multiple Birth Awareness Month, clubs benefit from the resources provided to their members with press releases and events in which families/communities can attend and participate which in turn brings awareness to the public.
- Marketing and Publicity for your Club
 

National exposure for your local club as well as credibility, press releases and marketing materials and the use of our brand
- Together We Can Accomplish So Much More Than One Club Can
  - a) A small number of member clubs feel they have all they need to support their parents of multiples in their community. However, for the majority of our member clubs out there, this is not the case and frankly is not the case 100% of the time for ANY club. As much as we want to help those in our own club, the bigger picture is that together we can accomplish so much more than on our own. Together, we can work on programs, support, resources and education to make us both even more successful.
  - b) With our almost 61 years of experience, we can offer more support and information. So, when we collaborate with local member clubs, we can do so much more for our parents of multiples, media, researchers and the public, as well as, creating assistance in underserved areas of the nation!



- c) These ideas of support, education and research can be extremely helpful to the both large and small clubs around the nation.

## **INDIVIDUAL MEMBER BENEFITS**

Support, Education, Research from Multiples of America's over 11,500 members and over 220 local clubs and almost 61 years of experience, credibility, recognition, support, publications/information, and research.

### Marge Ainsworth Educational Scholarship

- a) Educational Scholarships are now available to multiple birth children and to parents of multiples. You must be a member of a member local club for 3 years prior to applying for a scholarship.

Our Quarterly e-magazine, Multiples of America's *Multiple Connections*, is electronically mailed to every member.

- b) The ideas and articles in *Multiple Connections* cover a broad scale of topics for members. Topics cover almost anything you can imagine from pregnancy, through infancy, years in school, aging and other life changes. Plus, other benefits for individuals include the book reviews, advertising geared to parents of multiples, and worldwide research opportunities with outside researchers for participation.
- c) *Multiple Connections* alone is worth \$10 a year membership dues. Each member receives four color issues a year. It is about the price of one Starbucks Latte or two McDonald's Happy Meals. This is a small price for such a high caliber, award winning magazine that is full of articles, information, education and research besides all the other benefits listed here for a year's worth of support, information, education and research

### Membership Support Coordinators

Membership Support Coordinators including Higher Order Multiples Coordinator, Special Needs Coordinator, Single Parent Coordinator, Bereavement Coordinator, LGBT Support Coordinator and Affiliate Member Coordinator are available to all members for support and resources.

### Multiples of America's Website

- d) The Multiples of America website, now mobile friendly, offers a wide range of information and resources to members.
- e) Members Only Section. Login and password required and changes each December.
- f) Our new blog "Support Multiplied" keeps you connected with important announcements and the latest information.

### Education of Multiple Birth Children

- g) We have aided in educating the educators (teachers/principals) and administrators of multiple birth children. We have given a voice to parents to stand up to school officials by giving them research and information to share with them regarding placement
- h) We offer members information so that they can have a voice in political structures for support in school systems, daycare and in the medical environment through research. Using our research and research data we have compiled, enables members to have the documentation to provide what is best for each multiple and each family.

### Social Media

- a. For those unable to connect face-to-face or want more opportunities to connect, the public and private groups available on Facebook and on Twitter have shown to be very beneficial to the individual member. These avenues provide a place for parents to seek advice from thousands of parents that know what they are going through versus the 20 to 100 they may have in their local club. And they can connect 24/7!

- b. Research Opportunities Available - Participate in studies conducted by approved outside researchers under the direction of the Outside Research Coordinator. Only approved researchers are posted.
- c. Participate in internal surveys written by our own Research Committee under the direction of the Research Vice President. These are posted on Survey Monkey for all members to anonymously fill out.
- d. Read our Research Reports which are the results of all outside research projects and internal surveys. These reports are written in layman terms and reported to the membership in Multiples of America's *Multiple Connections*.

#### Multiples of America annual Conventions

- a) With a new location around the nation each year, convention is a great opportunity for a networking trip, educational trip, a friend getaway and/or family vacation. Many workshops and speakers are held throughout convention with many educational and informational opportunities.

Casting Call Opportunities provide opportunities for members to get involved in TV shows/interviews, movies, etc.

#### Volunteering on the National Level

- a) Opportunity to give back to other parents of multiples by becoming a National Worker.
- b) Challenge yourself by volunteering in National Worker positions and using your talents and skills to impact clubs across the U.S.
- c) Inter-Generational Connections and Friendships. Getting involved and volunteering not only affords a feeling of self-accomplishment, but it also provides the link between families that are on the same plane in your journey of raising multiples as well as those who have already had those experiences. You benefit from those who have children in school as well as those who have great grandchildren. Each season carries its own challenges, and without the wisdom the veteran parents can impart, we are left fumbling along and desperately wishing for that advice.
- d) Developing new skills and learning new tasks are available. Work accomplished in a volunteer position can also be utilized on resumes for future job opportunities.

#### Paying it Forward

- a) Being a member allows you to give back to those who may not know that our type of support exists (local clubs, state and National organizations).
- b) To offer help or support to all parents of multiples as a thank you for all the support you received as your children were growing.
- c) Being with members from around the country who are in the same situation as you. You will network with those who have the same age multiples or who have already experienced what you may be seeking advice on.
- d) Passing along the bonds, relationships and friendships countrywide that you have made with families of multiples.
- e) To assist the new parents of multiples by giving back to them.

***All the benefits listed and more for just \$10 a year. Being a member of Multiples of America is a wonderful deal and great value to both individuals and clubs.***

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact us [info@multiplesofamerica.org](mailto:info@multiplesofamerica.org)