

**ATHEISTS AND OTHER  
FREETHINKERS**

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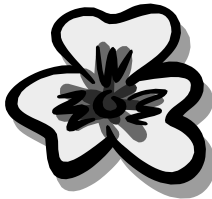
## **AOF Statement of Purpose**

The purpose of the nonprofit organization *Atheists and Other Freethinkers* is to promote the civic understanding and acceptance of atheism in our community.

Through its educational programs, projects and publications, AOF extends atheistic perspectives concerning the separation of church and state and the right to think and speak freely on these perspectives.

AOF was established in 1993 in Sacramento California. Initially a nonprofit educational association with by-laws, officers, and a board of directors, it became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public benefit corporation in 2002.

CIVIC ACCEPTANCE for the  
"deity-free" folks...



...our goal to consider,  
work for, and **ACHIEVE**

AOF is a member society of Atheist Alliance International. Additional affiliations include American Humanist Association, American Atheists, and Council for Secular Humanism.

**AOF**

**Atheists and Other Freethinkers**

P.O. Box 15182

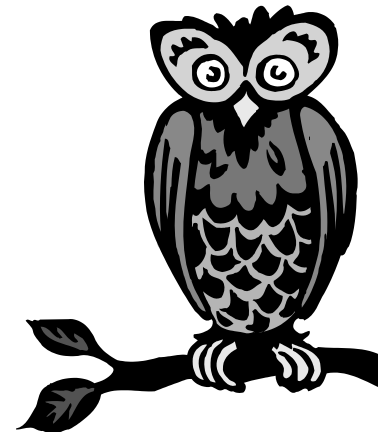
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## **Introducing AOF**



**[www.aofonline.org](http://www.aofonline.org)**

**A 501(c)(3) tax exempt  
educational public  
benefit organization**

# Why Atheists and Other Freethinkers?

The right to believe or not believe in a deity is a right of conscience afforded to every American by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. In our society, though, there is a cultural bias against persons whose worldview is naturalistic. Those who are openly “deity-free” are marginalized and labeled “nonbelievers” despite their having sincere convictions, while “persons of faith” find acceptance as full participants in our society.



Seeing the world as it is—without a lens of faith.

AOF affirms the right of an individual to hold a worldview free of supernatural belief and to express it without discrimination or penalty, and without denial of a citizen’s full participation in American life.

One need not be an atheist or a freethinker to be a member of AOF, but one must support the stated purpose of the organization and pay annual dues. Supporters of AOF recognize the need to have a strong wall of separation between church and state that prevents religious intrusion into government. To protect liberty of conscience for all citizens, means ensuring freedom *from*, as well as *of*, religion.

## What Is a Freethinker?

A freethinker is a person who forms his or her opinions about religion independently of tradition, authority, or established belief.

Freethinkers reject dogma and creeds. When weighing the evidence for religious tenets put forth by others, they reject the supernatural and rely on logic combined with empiricism.

## What Is an Atheist?

The word *atheist* has suffered much misuse and abuse over time. Its meaning is straightforward. An atheist is a person who is *without belief* in God, a god, or gods.

Contrary to common belief, the vast majority of atheists do *not* declare that a god is impossible, but they regard the probability as exceedingly slight.

Over thousands of years, verifiable proofs of the existence of a god or of any supernatural entities have been lacking, and so atheists deem it highly unlikely that they will encounter a valid proof within their lifetimes. The burden of proof concerning the existence of God (or any gods) rests upon those who make the claim that a supernatural being or beings exist.

## AOFers and Friends

Members self-identify differently (*atheist* or *secular humanist* or *rationalist* or *skeptic* or *agnostic*). Some also identify more broadly, by their naturalistic worldview, as *brights*. An AOFer probably does not search for understanding through religion. Purpose and meaning are found in a life lived *free of supernatural beliefs*. AOF offers members camaraderie and opportunities to make a fuller contribution to society.

## Activities

The *Atheists and Other Freethinkers* organization

- ◆ Holds monthly general membership meetings with speakers and/or programs
- ◆ Publishes a monthly newsletter, *AOF News & Views*
- ◆ Engages in diverse and ongoing social activities, such as “movie nights” and solstice celebrations
- ◆ Conducts educational and charitable activities in the community
- ◆ Organizes an annual outdoor fair in cooperation with other organizations that support liberty of conscience and church/state separation
- ◆ Participates in worthwhile projects and nonpolitical activities that enhance achievement of its major goals

## For Information

*General:* AOF’s calendar of upcoming events is accessible via internet at: [aofonline.org](http://aofonline.org)  
*Specific:* To speak to or leave a message for a return call from a Board member, call the voice mail at (916) 447-3589. If you have additional questions about AOF, you may write to: AOF / Information Request, PO Box 15182, Sacramento CA 95851-0182

*Unless announced otherwise, most general meetings take place on the second Sunday of the month at Sierra 2 Community Center, 2791 24th Street, Sacramento (just south of Broadway). However, special events, such as Freethought Day in October and Darwin Day in February, introduce changes in schedule and location.*