**Requirements for Starting a New AGS Chapter\***

*\*AGS only recognizes one chapter per state – no exceptions*

*\*You can contact AGS president to see if someone else in*

*your state is currently working toward organizing a chapter.*

* A minimum of 25 people who are current AGS members at the time of granting the charter.

To get an idea of how many AGS members there are in your state, contact [AGSmembership@comcast.net](mailto:AGSmembership@comcast.net) for the most current numbers and a list of current and former members to contact about possible interest in joining a gourd patch or chapter

* Elect a set of officers with a minimum of a chair or President, Secretary, & Treasurer.
* Act as a non-profit educational organization.

To be recognized by the IRS as a non-profit organization complete and submit the SS4 Application (See the SS4 form on this web site) for an Employer Identification Number (EIN).

Go to www.irs.gov/FormSS4 for instructions and the latest information

* Adopt a set of by-laws. Copies of other chapter by-laws can be provided to use as a guide.

**Suggestions for Getting Started**

A good starting place is to organize a *local* **Gourdpatch.** Check out this informative article **“How to Start a Gourd Patch”** on the same page of this web site which covers:

* Starting a Gourdpatch in 10 easy steps
* Meeting ideas
* Sample meeting agendas
* Sample initial contact letter
* Sample promotional handout
* Gourd interest questionnaire

**A Newsletter** that is sent out periodically helps maintain awareness.

* Newsletters are voluntarily sent to other chapter newsletter editors and editors have generally agreed to let articles be reprinted into the other’s newsletters. Ask if you can receive one or more to help you get started.

**A Gourd Show** is nice but most chapters start out with **Educational Programs** at fairs, garden shows, etc.

**An Annual Get Together** over food to share ideas on crafting and growing of gourds helps develop longer-lasting relationships of folks with common interests in gourds.

Look for **Other Craft Organizations**, like Woodworkers and Basketry groups, to find common & overlapping interests. Several gourd chapters co-sponsor events with them. Idaho and California are two chapters that do so.