HMC-Memo-004-Meetup-Hosts

MEMORANDUM

TO: Handmade Meetup Hosts
FROM: Abner Coimbre
DATE: February 25th, 2026
SUBJECT: New "Verified Human" vouching system

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*M*eetup hosts organize offline events in *their respective cities*. They send newsletters, invite members to our chat server and use Handmade branding. Hosts *make sure* the meetup rules are followed.

Dear Hosts,

My condolences to anyone in the US east coast: in particular NYC, D.C. and Boston. Winter storms seem to keep raging, so stay safe!

Some of you were understandably resistant to our transition away from Discord, but we are committed to Handmade Revolt. One day we'll have an experience rivaling Discord. (No pain no gain is my favorite cliché.) Some hosts like in Vancouver, Canada created an unofficial Discord group and asked if it was okay. Here was my response:

> You may continue with your own Discord group, as long as it's obvious it's unofficial (avoid Handmade branding in the titles or logos.) You are responsible for proper moderation and so on.

The host for Washington D.C. still mentions his Discord handle in meetup invites: that's all fine! What I appreciate is that the Vancouver and D.C. hosts are present on Revolt even though they still use Discord. **We need all hosts on Handmade Revolt by March 20th, 2026 (Spring). Otherwise I will assume you're no longer interested in organizing meetups.** You may apply on the website or literally invite yourself in.

Why We Care About Verified Humans

A fully-open Discord server attracts behaviors I'm super interested to reduce or eliminate entirely: online brigading, bots, spam attacks and data breaches. We do pay a heavy price for running an invite-only server: no one can drop in easily to ask questions. No one wants to sign up for another thing!

In return, however, we gain a **high-trust environment.**

With a high-trust environment we're deploying the upcoming Handmade Library: community members will borrow books or computer hardware from each other. In high-trust environments there's a *baseline decorum* because we know the real name of everyone and their personal websites or employers. We can even have *more* productive debates and disagreements.

The Vouching System AKA Invite Tree

Right now only you folks can invite people to the chat server. We want ALL [Verified Humans](#) to invite people in. My goal is to ship a vouching system by Spring 2026, because after that we'll be fussing over the [Neighborhood Marketing](#) campaign.

Every Verified Human shall inherit an invite tree. Each time someone invites a new user their tree gets a leaf / node. The person generating the invite is *vouching* the new user is a well-known human being. If they also state they've actually met in meatspace then this new user becomes a Verified Human too (and gets their own invite tree.)

If bots ever infiltrate us, we traverse the tree to the first known human who kickstarted the botnet, accidentally or otherwise. Then we prune the tree.

See you this Spring,

Abner Coimbre, Founder

Seattle, WA