



WANTED

MEMBERSHIP REGULATIONS

FEATURING:



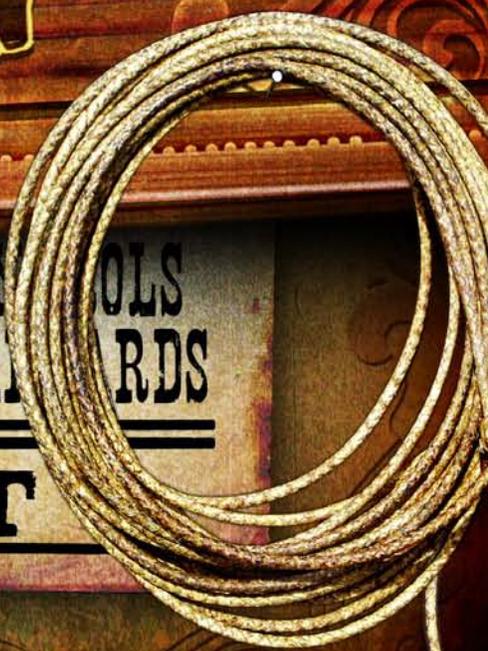
SOP.

101

SOUTHWEST GHOST HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

★	DATA ANALYSIS	PROCEDURES TECHNIQUES	CONTROLS STANDARDS
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1. SGHA Membership Regulations

The mission of the Southwest Ghost Hunter's Association is to conduct research into the phenomena commonly known as ghosts and hauntings. This is something that is easier said than done. It requires a specific set of skills to perform the various functions necessary to achieve that end goal. The challenge is that our membership base is composed of a variety of people from various backgrounds with various interests. Each individual has certain skills and knowledge that may be valuable to our group. SGHA is multi-faceted, allowing members to choose their level of involvement. The regulations outlined in this SOP are designed to help us utilize those individual talents to accomplish our mission.

2. General Membership (Assistants & helpers)

The General Membership is for individuals who want limited involvement as participation is more flexible. This form of membership allows access to our forum and possible participation in other activities if space and operational requirements are sufficient and acceptable. Members can join in on discussions in the forum and assist in the standard analysis of some data. New members may be put into the General membership while undergoing training.

The General Membership is primarily tasked for conducting Recons on newly discovered haunted locations (see SOP 300). The General membership cannot participate in media or high priority events unless tasked to do so by the Active Membership.

Training Requirement	Purpose
SOP-102 SGHA Handbook	To understand the history, methodology and philosophy of SGHA.
SGHA By-Laws	To understand how the managerial aspects of SGHA work and understand the other governing regulations of our organization.
SOP-100, SOP-101	To understand our operational process and the regulations regarding membership in the SGHA.
SOP 300	How to conduct a Recon Ghost Hunt.

This form of membership is ideal for those who cannot participate otherwise due to available time, financial restrictions, distance or other limiting factors. With the exception of items listed below, further training is optional but highly recommended.

START



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

**Access to forum, participation in outings
if space permits, flexible participation,
optional social activities and events**

**Honorary
Membership**



**Associate
Membership**

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

**Priority of outings, full forum
access, higher standards, more
involvement**

Obtaining proficiency levels is highly encouraged because some activities are restricted to certain members based solely on their proficiency level (skills). A member's skills can determine whether or not they are eligible to participate in some activities.

People in the General Membership that want to get more involved are able to petition the President for admission to the Active Membership after three months.

2.1 Requirements for SGHA General Membership

People entering SGHA must meet the requirements as stated in our by-laws and the Code of Conduct listed in this SOP.

2.2 Additional skills for members

If a member is not interested in obtaining any Proficiency levels, they can still learn certain skills that will help them become more employable to the Active Membership for high priority events.

SKILL	REFERENCE
Interviewing Witness	SOP 300
Recording audio	SOP 305
Audio Analysis	SOP 307
Video equipment Set-up & OPs	SOP 205

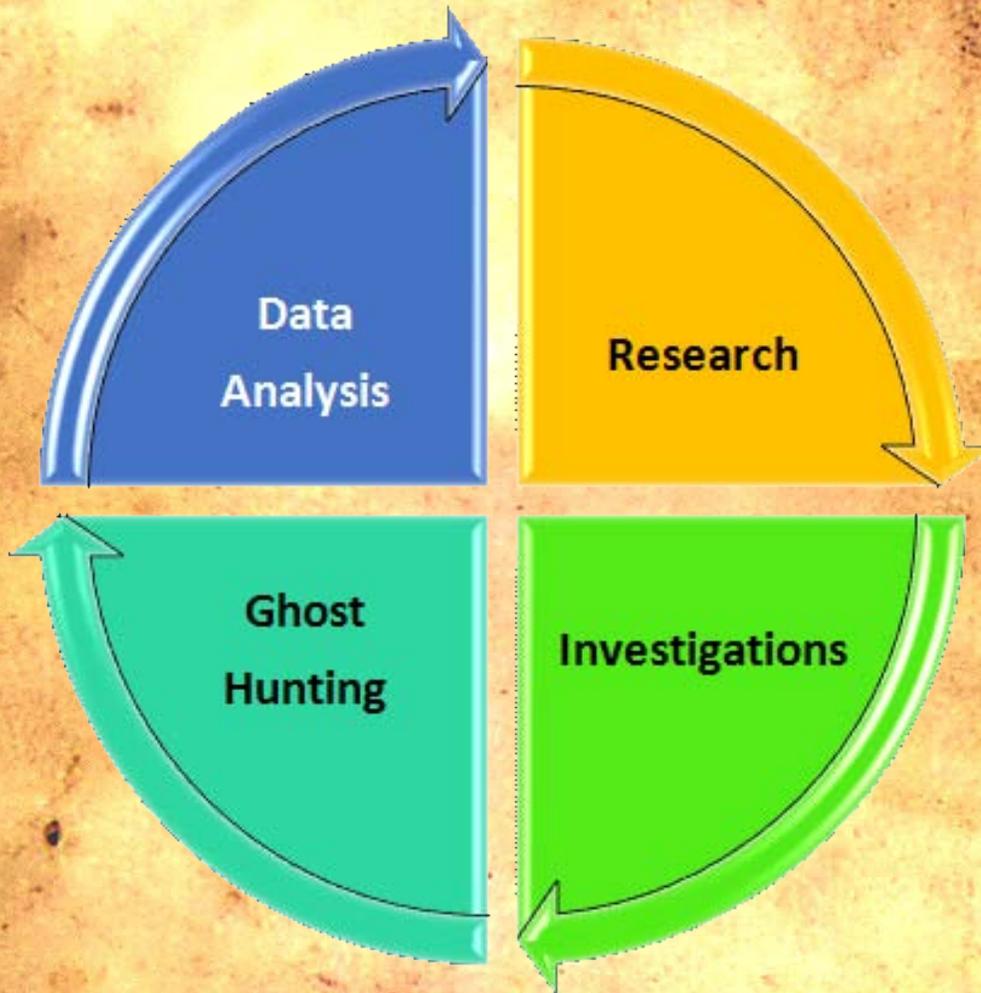
3. Active Membership (Investigators)

This is where SGHA gets more serious and members in the Active Membership are held to a higher standard than those in the General Membership. Members in the Active Membership are **required** to actively participate in discussions in the forum, especially in discussions concerning alternative explanations for phenomenon and formation of hypotheses to test such explanations. They are also required to analyze data collected from ghost hunts and investigations to include historical research on the locations where the data was taken.

Obtaining Level 1 and 2 Proficiency levels is mandatory to be in the Active Membership. Candidates are given six months to learn the required criteria for each level. After the six months, the member must take a written and practical exam for that level. Candidates who do not pass both tests are given additional training and a re-test. Failure to pass the re-test generally results in refusal from admission in the Active membership.

4. Proficiency Levels

Although this is a hobby, it is a hobby with homework. Becoming a good investigator is not an overnight process and can take years of study to become knowledgeable. To make this learning process manageable, we have proficiency levels. The reason for the proficiency levels is based upon the four fundamental aspects that comprise a good ghost hunter/ investigator. The proficiency levels allow us to teach each of these aspects in a organized manner without overbearing the learner. There are four Proficiency levels. The levels build upon each other, requiring them to be obtained in



numerical sequence. The proficiency levels are designed to be **self taught** (self-directed learning). There is no formal training given, however we have a section in our forum (Training) to ask questions or to request assistance if needed.

Members should only attempt to gain additional Proficiency levels if they have the true desire, time and the potential. Obtaining a higher proficiency level is highly encouraged because some activities are restricted to certain members based solely on their proficiency level.

Much like in the civilian world, SGHA also uses proficiency levels to assign levels of responsibility to members. Those of a lower level would be equivalent to entry-level employees, while higher level members would be equivalent to mid-level management who supervise day-to-day operations. This division of responsibility ensures that the most experienced members take on the biggest and most complicated roles and members contribute to every level of the overall mission according to their qualifications.

4.1 Proficiency Level 1

Level 1 consists of basic ghost hunting skills and knowledge. As stated earlier, this level is required to be in the Active membership. This level focuses on knowing the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), some related philosophy and acquiring basic analysis techniques.

The required study references are listed below;

1. Understand the basic theories of a haunting

Reference: <http://www.sgha.net/library/theories-of-hauntings.pdf>

2. Understand the SOP categories, where to find information (SOP 500)

3. Acknowledge in writing that all SOPs have been reviewed

4. Understand SGHA's Operating Process (SOP 100)

5. Understand Audio Recording Procedures (SOP 305)

6. Understand SGHA's Membership Regulations (SOP 101)

7. Understand the procedures for Ghost Hunting (SOP 300)

8. Understand how a person's belief and worldview affects their perception of what is paranormal.

Reference: <http://www.sgha.net/articles/BeliefandWorldview.pdf>, also SOP 102

9. Understand the major mistakes made by Ghost Hunters

Reference: <http://www.sgha.net/articles/tenbigmistakes.pdf>

10. Be able to perform a First Pass Audio Analysis (SOP 307)

11. Understand the effects of speech on a spectrogram as the distance between the speaker and the microphone are increased.

Reference: http://www.sgha.net/articles/spectrogram_distance.pdf

12. Perform Basic Image Analysis

References: <http://www.sgha.net/articles/fakedphoto1.pdf>

<http://www.sgha.net/articles/fakedphoto2.pdf>

13. Understand the basics about Scientific Ghost Hunting

Reference: <http://www.sgha.net/articles/ScientificGhostHunting.pdf>

4.2 Proficiency Level 2

Level 2 focuses on the critical thinking skills, ideology and techniques required to be an investigator. In SGHA, investigators are primarily concerned with seeking alternative answers for reported paranormal events. The skills that are taught in this level are imperative to the whole operational process of our group. There is also an emphasis on scientific controls and practical exercises are required to demonstrate the member's ability to monitor and evaluate these controls.

*A level 2 is required to be selected for participation in lectures and media events.

Study references are listed below.

1. Assessing the Credibility of Witnesses of Paranormal Activity

Reference <http://www.sgha.net/articles/WitnessCredibility.pdf>

2. Visual Recognition and Belief in the Paranormal

Reference: <http://www.sgha.net/library/SeeingThings.pdf>

3. Some Determinants of Belief in Psychical Phenomenon

References: <http://www.sgha.net/library/determinants.pdf>

4. Understand myth building

Reference: <http://www.sgha.net/articles/mythbuilding.html>

5. Understand Investigation Procedures (SOP 301)

6. Understand the basics about Apparitional Phenomena

Reference: <http://www.sgha.net/articles/ApparitionalPhenomena.pdf>

7. Be able to perform a Second Pass Audio Analysis (SOP 308)

8. Understand the field guide to Critical Thinking

Reference: http://www.sgaha.net/library/A_Field_Guide_to_Critical_Thinking.pdf

9. Belief in psychic ability and the misattribution hypothesis: A qualitative review

Reference: <http://www.sgaha.net/library/review01.pdf>

10. Using Critical Thinking and Scientific Method to analyze video

Reference: <http://www.sgaha.net/articles/criticalthinkingvideo.html>

11. Natural explanations for some paranormal activity

Reference: <http://www.sgaha.net/articles/natoc.pdf>

12. Infrasound and the paranormal

Reference: <http://www.sgaha.net/library/INFRASOUND.pdf>

13. Apparitional Experiences: A Primer on Parapsychological Research and Perspectives

Reference: <http://www.sgaha.net/library/Apparitional%20Experiences%20Primer%20Final.pdf>

4.3 Proficiency Level 3

Level 3 focuses on the more advanced analysis skills and begins to cover some of the research that has been done by other people in the past.

1. Understand the Procedures for investigating Private residences (SOP 303)

2. Understand "Phantasms of the Living, volume 1".

Reference: <http://www.sgaha.net/library/phantasmsoflivin01gurn.pdf>

3. Best Practices in the Acquisition, Processing, and Analysis of Acoustic Speech Signals

Reference: <http://www.sgaha.net/library/Audio-technology.pdf>

4. Be able to perform a Final Pass of an Audio Recording. (SOP 309)

5. HAUNTING PRESENCE: PLACES AND THE PERFORMANCES AND PERCEPTIONS OF THE PARANORMAL

Reference: http://www.sgaha.net/library/1.50040!HauntingPresence_Session_uppdatt%20juli.pdf

6. Signal Processing with PRAAT

Reference: <http://www.sgaha.net/library/sspbook.pdf>

7. Six Modern Apparitional Experiences

Reference: http://www.sgaha.net/library/jse_09_3_stevenson.pdf

8. An Apparitional Case of the Bystander Type

Reference: <http://www.sgaha.net/library/lyengarJSPR87.pdf>

9. SURVEY OF CLAIMED ENCOUNTERS WITH THE DEAD

Reference: <http://www.sgaha.net/library/omega.pdf>

10. Something in the Cellar

Reference: <http://www.sgaha.net/library/Something-in-the-Cellar.pdf>

11. Magnetic Fields and Haunting Phenomena: A Basic Primer

Reference: <http://www.sgaha.net/library/hauntingsandmagnetismprimer.pdf>

12. An Experimental Test of Instrumental Transcommunication

Reference: http://www.sgaha.net/library/jse_21_1_baruss.pdf

13. STATES OF CONSCIOUSNESS

Reference: <http://www.sgaha.net/library/jnma00036-0033.pdf>

4.4 Proficiency Level 4

Level 4 is focused on the research aspects as well as advanced analysis techniques.

1. Understand SGHA's Research Procedures (SOP 302)

2. Understand "Phantasms of the Living, volume 2".

Reference: <http://www.sgaha.net/library/phantasmsoflivin02gurniala.pdf>

3. The Contribution of Apparitions to the Evidence for Survival

Reference: <http://www.sgaha.net/library/STE10.pdf>

4. Human Personality and Its Survival of Bodily Death

Reference: <http://www.sgaha.net/library/humanpersonality00myer.pdf>

5. THE SCIENTIFIC PROOF OF SURVIVAL AFTER DEATH

Reference: <http://www.sgaha.net/library/cfpf-scientific-proof.pdf>

6. Using Praat for Linguistic Research

Reference: <http://www.sgha.net/library/UsingPraatforLinguisticResearchLatest.pdf>

7. A Two-Year Investigation of the Allegedly Anomalous Electronic Voices or EVP

Reference: <http://www.sgha.net/library/571-1451-1-PB.pdf>

8. A Systematic Review on Research on After Death Communication

Reference: <http://www.sgha.net/library/dissertation.pdf>

9. An investigation into the alleged haunting of Hampton Court Palace: Psychological variables and magnetic fields

Reference: <http://www.sgha.net/library/hampton.pdf>

10. Magnetic Anomalies and the Paranormal

Reference: <http://www.sgha.net/library/Magnetic-Anomalies-and-the-Paranormal.pdf>

11. Origins of Belief in Life after Death, Implications for Survival Research

Reference: http://www.sgha.net/library/262_793359916_0.pdf

12. Image analysis with ImageJ or Icy software

13. Understand Method 1 (SOP 400)

5. Honorary and Associate Membership

Honorary membership is given to selected individuals who have performed meritoriously in SGHA or have established important connections with SGHA. Associate membership is granted to those holding degrees in scientific fields who assist SGHA with knowledge and advice in certain areas.

6. Code of Conduct for the SGHA Membership

1. As a member of SGHA, it is your duty to remember that before, during, and after an official ghost hunt, investigation or research project, you are not only representing yourself, but your team and the entire organization as well. Failure in following the codes as set forth by the President will result in the termination of your membership. Also be aware that an official SGHA function cannot be performed without the expressed written/verbal consent of the President.

2. The President, Vice President, SGHA Officer in charge or designated representative makes all decisions concerning the investigation. Failure to follow directions and SGHA policies is grounds for termination.
3. No affiliations with other paranormal "groups" are authorized unless waived by the President.
4. Members must obey all federal, state, and municipal laws and regulations.
5. Investigators must treat one another and their clients with respect at all times.
6. Members should maintain professional composure during an investigation by avoiding expressions of strong emotions (such as showing fear, running away, or overreacting to paranormal activity).
7. Members must not fabricate or falsify evidence. Furthermore, members are obligated to report when they realize that a piece of evidence that others believe is paranormal is, in fact, of mundane origin.
8. Members should not discuss preliminary interpretations or conclusions with a client during an investigation. All data should be analyzed before any conclusions are shared.
9. Data collection and analyses are to be performed only by persons who are qualified by appropriate education, training, and experience. Trainees may collect and analyze data only under the direct supervision of a qualified member (level 2 or above).
10. All members are to respect the site of investigation. No littering at site of investigation and no obscene, foul, or abusive language near clients. No pranks or practical jokes at investigation site and no handling of objects without owner's permission.
11. SGHA does not pay or cover the costs for its members to participate in hunts or investigations. Incurred expenses are paid by the members volunteering to participate in the outing.
12. All Members who attend Field Excursions, Ghost hunts, Research projects or Out-of-State Research Trips assume full responsibility and agree to relieve the SGHA and the President of any liability as far as personal injury, legal action or anything deemed as an Act Of God(s).
13. SGHA and its members are not allowed to use psychics or mediums in investigations. An exception can be made in ghost hunts but only if the psychic is brought in by a third party or if they are explicitly required in a research project.

14. All outings are for SGHA Members only! Please do not bring wives, friends, or relatives unless permission is granted directly by the President or Vice President.

15. All information obtained during SGHA sponsored outings should remain within the SGHA circle and not shared with anyone not already a member. SGHA holds exclusive copyright of any material presented, investigated or obtained during or afterwards. This would include: photographs, video or audiotapes, and research reports and any other data generated by SGHA.

16. Members must follow all SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures).

7. Understanding Skepticism

To quote Dr. Shermer: *Skepticism is not a position; it's a process.*

The popular misconception is that skeptics, or critical thinkers, are people who disbelieve things. And indeed, the common usage of the word *skeptical* supports this: "He was skeptical of the numbers in the spreadsheet", meaning he doubted their validity. To be skeptical, therefore, is to be negative about things and doubt or disbelieve them.

The true meaning of the word *skepticism* has nothing to do with doubt, disbelief, or negativity. Skepticism is the process of applying reason and critical thinking to determine validity. It's the process of finding a supported conclusion, not the justification of a preconceived conclusion.

It's thus inaccurate to say "*Skeptics don't believe in ghosts.*" Some do. Many skeptics are deeply religious, and are satisfied with the reasoning process that led them there. Skeptics apply critical thinking to different aspects of their lives in their own individual way. Everyone is a skeptic to some degree.

Skepticism is, or should be, an extraordinarily powerful and positive influence on the world. Skepticism is *not* simply about "debunking" as is commonly charged. Skepticism is about redirecting attention, influence, and funding away from worthless superstitions and toward projects and ideas that are evidenced to be beneficial to humanity and to the world.

The scientific method is central to skepticism. The scientific method requires evidence, preferably derived from validated testing. Anecdotal evidence and personal testimonies generally don't meet the qualifications for scientific evidence, and thus won't often be accepted by a responsible skeptic; which often explains why skeptics get such a bad rap for being negative or disbelieving people. They're simply following the scientific method.

Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence, particularly in claims that are farfetched or that violate physical laws. Skepticism is an essential, and meaningful, component of the search for truth.

(source: <http://skeptoid.com/skeptic.php>)