

## **Should you join a survival group?**

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### **Introduction**

There are a host of current situations taking place worldwide which are instigating major anxiety among countless American people. Just recently we scrutinized with disquieting minds the multiple South American caravans heading to our southern borders. These conveyances are loaded with people who refuse to take “No” for an answer and they have openly threatened to illegally enter our country whether they are invited or not. To me that is an act of aggression. We see gun legislation being lobbied into law in all our nation’s states. My own state of Delaware, which is by and large a gun friendly state, has recently enacted some pretty oppressive gun regulations. These are issues of concern for many people including myself.

### **The Need for Survival Groups**

With issues and problems such as indicated above being witnessed on a daily basis we have discovered more and more good American’s who have painstakingly considered joining various survival groups. There is nothing what-so-ever wrong with this decision in the least, after all each and every one of us wish only to protect our families and loved ones in the event of a SHTF scenario. People initially surmised that survival and prepping were about providing for one’s own individual safety however it goes much deeper than that. Consider for a moment your wife, your children, and perhaps your grandchildren when you devise the indispensable plans to survive a major disaster. Let’s take a moment and evaluate the advantages of a decision to join a survival group and how you might consider going about it.

For the past eight years I have maintained an online survival training website, but do not be confused as this internet real estate will never replace a brick and mortar building coupled with human interaction. The website is fine if your intent is to pass training information onto potential survivalists and preppers along with developing a possible emergency alert system, but that is about the extent of it. If you are engrossed in joining a survival group you should consider doing it for reasons relevant to joint protection, necessities such as food and water, a safe place where you and your family can feel comfortable and perhaps for medical expertise should it become necessary. Your survival organization should be located as close to you as is humanly possible. If you are required to drive from Northern Delaware to Southern Delaware you may encounter risks and dangers at every mile that you need to travel. When an emergency takes place, it is the local people who must assemble and get involved in the issues not someone hundreds of miles away. Local people should be adequately training on making do with the resources that they have at their disposal.

In times such as these it is important to band together for safety. After all the bad guys are doing just that. One person cannot defend their homestead successfully from the marauders intent upon taking what you have worked so hard to accumulate. It doesn’t matter if you have a hundred weapons at your disposal; if you are only one person you are risking the safety of yourself and your family. I am in complete favor of getting organized with a likeminded local group where you have the opportunity of increasing your chances of providing yourself access to a measure of security and to badly needed supplies.

### **Make Your Plans Ahead of Time**

With that said, I personally find it important that you should make provisions ahead of time. Distance and time are not your friends and they will not give you an inch of advantage. When the SHTF, it is vital to act immediately and as in most circumstances it could very well be a life and death situation. As an example, my family is fairly small. The children have left home and now have families of their own. In an open emergency I would like to hope that they would unite together at my home. My wife and I have a small three acre spread of land located in the country. I have always stated that protecting your homestead by yourself is a foolish task at best, as it takes several people to accomplish such a noble goal. In the past I have carefully considered providing open space on my mini-farm for a few people to setup a camper as their bug out home in a SHTF situation. Naturally, in such a case I would have to official meet the people personally and interview them in order to obtain some insight on who I was inviting to my home and to properly vet them prior to the hazard actually occurring. This therefore would be my first tip to you, don't wait until the disaster is on top of you to approach your group and get to know them. I can safely say that most survival communities will turn you away under such circumstances.

### **Networking**

Establishing proper networking arrangements is imperative for both groups and for people. Several years ago, my survival group had made provisions to grant mutual aid and help with a survival group further north in Delaware as well as with one located in Virginia. This was all well and good under normal, peaceful conditions however it was a very unfruitful plan after a disaster is actually upon us. Granted, we can readily provide training easily enough in the various survival skills and in an emergency condition we can open our doors to the people we have met previously however they would need to get to our location. This would not be a very encouraging thought considering the feasibility of riots and the mass civil disruption which would be taking place between their location and ours.

### **Food**

Bartering will become an economic factor when the SHTF. Land will likely become a valuable commodity since with land you can produce food and other provisions needed for life thus greatly increasing your chances of survival or for resale purposes. Unfortunately, you will most likely need help developing your land and especially in protecting it. An example of how valuable land will be, my group is able to plant and harvest enough food to get them from one crop season to the next. These are important issues to think about as you would not have such advantages while residing within the confines of a city. Additionally, we have access to my small greenhouse for a few fresh vegetables during the winter month. Combine the field and greenhouse with my emergency seed supply and it is a winning situation.

My next suggestion therefore involves the act of bringing food with you. Don't be one of those people who upon learning of a group or individual's food storage facilities suddenly turn to the host and laughingly comments, "Well I know where to go when the SHTF." This is an immediate cause to greet you at the door with an AR-15. Heed my words well and bring your fair share of necessities. Don't come empty handed.

### **Weapons**

If you respond to a group and wish to join it, be sure to stock up on weapons and ammunition. No group can survive in battles which are engaged with sticks and stones. You don't need an AR-15 or any

kind of fancy weapon, as just a simple 22 will suffice. Just ensure you carry enough ammo with you along with proper tactical clothing. Be prepared for war if need be.

### **Skills**

Make yourself an asset to your proposed group. Learn a trade or skill that your desired group can possibly utilize. We once had a reloader in our group that had owned all his own equipment and supplies. The key here is to be an asset to the survival organization. Are you medically qualified? Are you a nurse? Perhaps you are an experienced mechanic or a farmer. A host of different skills and trades are needed to survive bad times. Analyze your skills and if you find you are short on them hone up as soon as you can. Get all your ducks lined up. It is practically impossible for you to simply learn all the skills you will need in a mere matter of a few weeks. Plan ahead and get ready now. If you had to learn all the required skills needed to survive solely by yourself you would likely fail however nothing says you cannot develop one or two worthwhile skills that would be beneficial to a group. Everyone has some sort of skills which they have developed over the years. My wife can not only shoot a weapon but she is an experienced bread maker and cook, she is able to can food and she's capable of dehydrate just about anything that can be eaten. You too can develop some vital skills as well. Everyone benefits when people with diverse skills band together in a survival community.

### **Conclusion**

Most survivalist and prepper groups don't place ads in the local paper saying they are accepting members so the ball is now in your court. Pick it up and run for the goal line. Learn some new and useful skills, meet some likeminded people in your area and prepare for the unfortunate time when the SHTF.