

What is an association?

An association is a group of people who do something together as part of an organised body. An association can be anything from a few people to several thousand members. It is not a company. Meeting up in an association is something you do in your leisure time.

Joining an association is a great way of meeting new people and you can make useful contacts while also doing something that interests you.

Associations have existed in Sweden for over a century, so Swedes are used to meeting up in them. In the early days people met in associations so that together they could help to decide things in Sweden and this made the country more democratic. Most associations aim to be open to all and do not exclude anyone. This is a prerequisite for any association applying for a grant from the municipality of Avesta.

Anyone can form an association. This is a right established in Sweden's constitution.



What does an association do?

An association must not be involved in any criminal activity. Otherwise an association can do whatever it considers fun or important. For example, an association can meet to do sport, play music or work for women's rights. There are many different kinds of associations and the members themselves decide together what each association does.



What are the requirements for being an association?

- Decide together what your association will do.
- Do together what you have decided you will do.
- There must be a charter. The charter is the association's rules and you decide together what the rules will be.



- There must be a board. The board is made up of a few people from the association who meet and submit proposals to the members for what the association should do. The board must have a chairperson to head the board, a treasurer to look after the finances and a secretary to record the minutes and the decisions made at the association's meetings.



- All those who are part of the association are members.
- The association must hold an annual meeting once a year, at which the members decide what to do during the coming year and who should be on the board.



Want to know more?

You will find more information about associations here:

www.forening.se



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