



Tips to establish your family organization

Every one of us belongs to a family, if not many families, through marriages and other relationships. Establishing a family organization can help bring together family members that live in different households and locations. A family organization can be a large ancestral group with a specific purpose such as the Thomas Tolman Family Organization which includes all the descendants of our immigrant ancestor. A family organization is more commonly made up of grandparents, their children, and their grandchildren. A smaller family organization is better suited to bring together family members to accomplish family history, genealogy work and temple work, hold meaningful family reunions, give family service, and watch over the temporal and spiritual welfare of each family member.

The size, scope, and purposes of your family organization should be established based on the circumstances of your family members and adjusted as those circumstances change. **Never lose sight of the fact that the overall purpose of a family organization is to strive for love, unity, healing, forgiveness, friendship, and the spiritual and temporal welfare of all family members.** Adding a little formality, structure, and consistency to your family organization can achieve remarkable and even miraculous results that would otherwise not be possible. Such has been the legacy of the Thomas Tolman Family Organization.

As you establish your family organization, consider appropriately including the following areas based on your circumstances:

- **Family history, genealogical research, and temple work.** Family organizations can help you tend to the roots (ancestors) and branches (living relatives) of your family tree. This includes rallying our families to get involved in indexing, preserving and sharing family history, finding lost ancestors to take to the temple and teaching others to do the same. See the “get-involved activities” on the [Thomas Tolman Family Organization](#) website for ideas you can incorporate into your family organization. Remember the [promised blessings](#) of getting your family members involved in one of the most important purposes of this life.
- **Family reunions.** Every time a family gathers, it’s a family reunion! A family reunion can be a gathering of your immediate or extended family. Family reunions include everything from eating dinner together, working together, giving family service, weekly family home evenings, and wholesome family entertainment to an epic family vacation to

a national park, theme park, historical site, or other destination near or far away. The seemingly simple and frequent gatherings are among the most important family reunions and have the most far-reaching consequences.

- **Family service.** There are endless opportunities to serve and bless the lives of others while enriching the lives of your family and creating greater love and unity in the process. Establishing family service traditions will shape the character and legacy of your family.
- **Family temporal and spiritual preparedness.** The home is the primary place to care for the temporal and spiritual welfare of each member of the family. Families that set spiritual and temporal goals and take deliberate steps to help each family member progress will reap the wonderful blessings for their family's peace of mind and happiness.