

Guidelines for Use of UUCS Social and Online Media

The purpose of UUCS online and social media is to keep members informed of events/happenings at UUCS. The following guidelines/rules are offered as advice for how to best participate in a manner that will both contribute to the experience of all readers and also reflect well on you.

The administrator of the UUCS social and online media will enforce these rules by direct communication to violators. The administrator may also ban further communication by persons who disregard these rules. The administrator is a member of the UUCS Communications team, which in turn reports to the UUCS Board of Directors.

1. Post infrequently. Like the carpenter who uses "Measure twice, cut once" as a guideline, think about what you want to say, then say it once.
2. Say something substantial. All postings to this list should contribute significantly to the discussion. Simply saying "I agree" (in so many words) or "I disagree" (in so many words) does not meet this guideline.
3. Say something new. Explaining the same argument differently in an attempt to make them see the light is not an effective strategy.
4. Consider whether your choice of words may be construed as intentionally inflammatory. If so, rewrite.
5. "Getting the last word" is for children. We're beyond the age when we should be concerned with being the one to end the argument.
6. Agree to disagree. The likelihood of convincing someone to change a strongly held opinion is nil. State your case, but give up on the idea of converting the heathen.
7. Take "conversations" to private communication. When interaction gets to be a dialogue between two individuals trading comments or arguments, that's a sign that you need correspond with that person directly.

8. Remember that you are being judged by the quality of your contributions.
9. Take your time. If you expect busy people to take time out of their day to read and be impressed with the thoughtfulness of your message posting, then take the time to phrase it well and spell correctly.
10. NEVER respond in anger. Go ahead and compose a message in anger, since that may help you work through what you're angry about, but don't send it. Sleep on it. You will nearly always decide to not send it or to recompose it.
11. Be civil. Treat others how you wish to be treated. No matter how insulting someone is to you, you will always look better to the virtual bystanders, and uphold our UU principles, by responding politely.
12. Respect the rights of others. An electronic discussion is a commons. Your right to post ends at the right of others to not be insulted, badgered, or to have their time wasted.

[adapted from "Guidelines for Appropriate List Behavior,"
by Roy Tennant, Univ. of California - Berkeley, "Web4Lib" list.]

Reviewed 2019-01-20 by the UUCS Communications Team