

Mission Statement: Version 2.0

Motto

We bring together the godless of the South.

Preamble

- ◆ We are Southern Atheists United for Candid Expression, Freethought, Openmindedness, Reason, and Living Life.

Goals

- A. Uniting the godless of the South under science and reason: one is not free of the gods (concept) until one is guided by scientific reasoning.
 - 1. Motivation
 - a. To facilitate dialogue between freethinkers of myriad persuasions and stations. To enable and encourage dialogue amongst the most inquiring and skeptical minds. To engender and coordinate with engines of change.
 - b. Atheists living in the modern South are steeped in religious culture and may suffer reprisal for being themselves or questioning dogma. It is deemed that increased offline and online connectivity can mitigate this problem.
 - c. Online cohesion will facilitate and complement offline cohesion.
 - 2. Methodology
 - a. Online: We aim to unite those individuals and

organizations at sauceforall.com for the express purposes of extinguishing the sense of isolation that so many Southern atheists feel and mitigating alienation through empowerment by education.

b. Offline: We aim to unite extant freethought organizations and individual atheists into conferences and to aid students in the foundations of freethought organizations under the aegis of freethought and humanist organizations such as the follows:

- i. American Atheists
- ii. American Humanist Association
- iii. Secular Student Alliance

c. New Organizations: there are numerous colleges and universities throughout the South that lack a freethought organization. We aim to help the students of these institutions found one.

- i. We will encourage those students to be as inclusive as possible so as to promote discussion and the free flow of knowledge.

B. Espousing "tabula rasa" atheism and atheism as consequence.

1. Tabula Rasa: though the original concept of the "blank slate" is outmoded vis-a-vis innate propensities, humans are indeed born without *specific* beliefs in gods.

2. Atheism is often the consequence of exposure to science and reason. Whereas theism occurs most commonly as a component of religion.

a. Taken as such, atheism cannot be thought of as the antithesis of theism; an individual's atheism may be due to a lack of exposure or without specified logic.

b. When it is understood that science and reason is the

best way to acquire knowledge about our world, it is understood that without empirical evidence, most concepts of god become untenable.

- C. Mitigate the deleterious effects of religion through education via the aforementioned modes of online discussion, collegiate discussion, and conferences. Focus on the key differences between faith and atheism (as consequence).
1. Untestable and unfalsifiable statements are of little to no scientific value.
 2. While religion itself can have positive effects – sense of community, sense of worth – we hold that such benefits can be attained through totally secular means and that, furthermore, it is, fundamentally dangerous to believe in something that is incorrect.
 3. Reverse “Pascal’s Wager”: if life is all there is, and indeed there is zero evidence for the contrary once one accepts that science is the best way to acquire knowledge, then it is a tragic waste to worry about the wants of beings that do not exist in reality.

Terminology

- ◆ The following terms represent complex notions and behaviors. As such, the inquiring mind would do well by seeking a deeper understanding than what can be conveyed by the following definitions.

- A. Atheist (n.): one who either lacks belief or does not believe in God or gods, irrespective of reasoning; one who does not affirm that at least one god exists
1. Synonym: godless
- B. Agnostic:
1. (n.): one who does not claim to *know*, irrespective of reasoning, that any gods exist or who believes the answer is unknowable
 2. (adj.): the state of possessing insufficient knowledge to make a positive claim of, typically, the existence of gods
- C. Faith (n.):
1. belief without evidence
 2. complete trust (in someone or something)
- D. Freethinker (n.): one who actively constructs their beliefs through science and reason; one who rejects authority and dogma as sufficient means for constructing beliefs
- E. Logic (n.): the study of correct argumentation and reasoning
- F. Philosophy (n.):
1. Etymology: from the Greek *philosophia* "love of wisdom"
 2. Note: compare with *Science*
- G. Reason (n.): the cognitive faculty that allows one to first consider or ascertain the differences and similarities between notions and observations; and then to act on the resultant conclusions
- H. Science:
1. (n.): a methodology by which one or many people attempt to explain the phenomena of nature through observation and experimentation preceded or proceeded by the construction

- of consistent explanatory and/or predictive theories that entail testable propositions and falsifiable conclusions.
2. (n.) the body of knowledge generated by such a process that is oft reliable though virtuously understood to be fallible.