



Free State Project Guide

by Sandy Pierre





GUIDE 1.0

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FREE STATE PROJECT GUIDE

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WHAT IS THE FREE STATE PROJECT?

The Free State Project (FSP) is quite simply the most audacious liberty project attempted in the United States in the last 150 years. It's an effort to recruit 20,000 liberty activists to move to the state of New Hampshire. All that is required to join is to sign this pledge:

I hereby state my solemn intent to move to the state of New Hampshire within five years after 20,000 participants have signed up. Once there, I will exert the fullest practical effort toward the creation of a society in which the maximum role of civil government is the protection of individuals' life, liberty, and property.

We are now more than 75 percent of the way toward that goal, with more people moving daily. If you're asking yourself, *Why New Hampshire?*, then read on.



HISTORY OF THE FSP

It began back in 2001, when Jason Sorens, at the time a political science PhD candidate writing his dissertation at Yale University, published an article in the online publication [The Libertarian Enterprise](http://www.ncc-1776.org/tle2001/libe131-20010723-03.html),¹ entitled “*Announcement: The Free State Project*.”² He posited that it was time to face the fact that libertarians (both members of the US political party and individuals who support the ideas of limited government) were struggling against the tide by ineffectually attempting to win political offices throughout the United States amidst a largely unsympathetic culture that had come to believe that it is government’s responsibility to control almost every aspect of modern life. What if, instead, these individuals selected one US state to which to relocate, in order to combine forces and thereby have a real shot at influencing local and state-level politics? This would require some significant sacrifice on the part of participants: leaving behind jobs, schools, family, and familiar surroundings in order to move to an as-yet-to-be-determined state. But as Sorens pointed out, “Libertarian activists need to face a somber reality: nothing’s working.” He went on to write, “Twenty-thousand hardcore libertarian activists can go a long way in a small state.” Perhaps this bold idea is what it would take for liberty-minded individuals to really make a difference in modern America.

The 20,000 number was not arbitrary; it was based on statistical analysis of what percentage of a state’s population it would take to have significant influence on state-level politics. In order for 20,000 to be a significant percentage, the state’s overall population needed to be relatively low. The FSP came up with a list of states with the requisite low population size, combined with an analysis of existing pro-small-government political sentiment among state residents, gun laws, climate, economy, state taxes, and culture. The list was narrowed down to ten possibilities: Montana, Wyoming, Delaware, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Alaska. In September 2003, an election with paper ballots was held among the 5,000 participants who had then signed up. The results were tallied using the Condorcet method, and, on October 1, 2003, the winner was announced: New Hampshire!

HOW THE FSP IS DIFFERENT

Various methods have been tried to limit or reduce governmental power in the United States since its founding; sadly, none of them have worked. The Founding Fathers wrote the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights in hopes of reminding both government officials and members of the public that all people have certain rights and that the powers of the government should be strictly limited. We’ve seen how well that worked out! In 1971, a small group founded the Libertarian Party in hopes of both spreading the ideas of liberty and getting limited government proponents elected to office at the local, state, and national levels. Unfortunately, after more than forty years, the Libertarian Party’s electoral success has remained negligible at every level.

Numerous attempts have been made to create independent states or countries within what is now the territory of the United States. The Alaskan Independence Party, the Republic of La-

¹ <http://www.ncc-1776.org/>

² <http://www.ncc-1776.org/tle2001/libe131-20010723-03.html>



kota, League of the South, Republic of Texas, and Vermont Republic are just some examples. However, the Civil War remains a sobering example of the lengths the federal government is willing to go to prevent any portion of it from seceding.

A few groups have been successful in that, while not obtaining legal independence from the rest of the country, they have managed to gather large enough numbers in one state, or a few adjacent states, in order to have a noticeable impact on both local legislation and culture:

- **Mormons**—58 percent of the adult population of the state of Utah identifies as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Having an actual majority representation in the state has enabled Mormons to impose some of their cultural beliefs on the state as a whole. Having some of the most conservative alcohol policies in the country is just one example.
- **Amish**—settling primarily in specific counties in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Indiana, the Amish have been successful in parlaying their willingness to group together into the ability to maintain a lifestyle that is radically different from the rest of the country. They have also successfully obtained waivers from certain federal legislation applied to other Americans, such as the requirement to obtain a Social Security Number, to register for Selective Service, and to pay into the Social Security system.

This is the model the FSP is using: gather 20,000 like-minded individuals and their families in one geographic location. Note that the FSP makes no attempt to direct the activists once they get to New Hampshire; it's merely the bus to get them to the Granite State. What they choose to do once in-state is up to them.

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WHAT THE FSP IS NOT

The FSP is not an attempt to take over the state of New Hampshire. Nor is it a secessionist movement. Keep in mind that the goal of the FSP is to convince 20,000 activists to move.

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The current population of New Hampshire is slightly more than 1.3 million, which means that, at the successful completion of the FSP (and unrealistically assuming no additional population growth), FSP participants will make up less than 2 percent of the state's population. Despite a few overwrought liberal news stories to the contrary, this hardly constitutes an invading force!

The reason this small percentage can and will (and already has—see “The FSP Is Already Succeeding” section in this guide for a few examples) make a difference is because these are 20,000 activists—people willing to do more than argue on the Internet, endlessly debating nuances of



libertarian philosophy. These are doers, proving by the act of relocating to New Hampshire that they are willing to “mutually pledge to each other their lives, their Fortunes, and their sacred Honor,” to paraphrase the last line of the Declaration of Independence. What can 20,000 passionate, action-oriented, freedom-loving individuals accomplish? [Join us](https://freestateproject.org/user/register),³ and let’s find out together!

FSP IS A BIG TENT

The fact that you’re reading this guide demonstrates that you are at least somewhat familiar with the ideas of liberty. However, the terms “liberty lover” and “small government advocate” span a broad range of beliefs. Many people who apply these terms to themselves passionately disagree with one another on specific issues. If you’re wondering whether or not your particular political beliefs fall within the spectrum of FSP participants’ beliefs, the answer is more than likely yes. As long as you can get behind the idea of reducing the size and scope of government by at least two-thirds, you’ll fit right in. Many flavors of liberty activist are represented: Democrats, Republicans, Libertarians, unaffiliated, and those who believe the electoral system is inherently immoral and refuse to vote. There are constitutionalists, minarchists, anarchists, and voluntaryists. There is also a wide range of religious and cultural beliefs among current FSP participants. Conservative Christians, Jews, Muslims, Mormons, pagans, agnostics, and atheists are all represented.

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WHO ISN’T WELCOME

While the FSP has almost no rules (the primary rule being “move within five years of 20,000 signers”), there is one group of people who are not welcome. Anyone who promotes violence, racial hatred, or bigotry should look elsewhere. While the FSP is definitely not a pacifist organization (in fact, many of its participants are gun enthusiasts), those who endorse proactive (i.e., not in self-defense) violence against others are unwelcome. As long as you abide by a general live-and-let live philosophy, and adhere to the nonaggression principle, you’ll fit right in!

WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN THE FSP

If the idea of actually moving to another state for your political beliefs seems somewhat radical to you, you’re not alone. Then again, Americans move to other states all the time for a variety of reasons: for jobs; to attend college; to be with a loved one; to be closer to (or farther from!) family; to enjoy hobbies that require the presence of a beach, snowy mountains, etc. Looked at in this way, moving to be with others who share some of your most fundamental personal beliefs about the most effective and moral way to structure a government, and are willing to work to make it happen, doesn’t seem so strange! Furthermore, the odds are good that you can increase the amount of liberty in your life right now by relocating to New Hampshire, regardless of how long it takes the

³<https://freestateproject.org/user/register>



other 19,999 others to show up.

Think that New Hampshire is too different, too far, or too cold compared to where you live now in order for you to feel comfortable living here? Well, people have already signed up from every single US state. Early movers have arrived from all over the country, including Alaska, Hawaii, California, Texas, and Florida. There are also early movers who hail from entirely different countries. Wherever you may be from, you'll more than likely be able to find someone from the same place!

People have already signed up from every single US state.

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE ADVANTAGE

“The New Hampshire Advantage” is a phrase used by various organizations to promote some of the positive aspects of living in, or opening a business in, New Hampshire. There’s no denying that the state already has numerous limited-government advantages over the rest of the United States. Prior to the FSP state vote in 2003, an FSP participant who was hoping that New Hampshire would win the vote put together a list of reasons why she believed it was the best candidate for the FSP. The document was so popular that the FSP has continued to use it for ten years (with some revisions) as a marketing tool. Check out [“101 Reasons to Move to New Hampshire”](http://freestateproject.org/about/101-reasons-move-new-hampshire)⁴ and see for yourself the many ways the “Live Free or Die” state is already freer than where you’re currently living.

THE FSP IS ALREADY SUCCEEDING

You may feel like you’ve been beating your head against a wall trying to enact political or social change where you currently live. You may have campaigned passionately for Ron Paul in 2008 and/or in 2012 and been frustrated by how he was belittled and marginalized by the mainstream media. You may have run for office as a member of the Libertarian Party and lost, badly. You may have managed to get on your town finance committee or planning board, only to be frustrated and overruled by the rest of the members. You may have been struggling to get medical marijuana re-legalized in your state. You may be disgusted with the current state of the legal system in the United States and long for a return to jurors’ rights and the ability to judge the law as well as the crime. If you’re a woman, you may be frustrated by the fact that, when you show up at a political meeting or rally, you’re the only female there. Most of all, you may just feel isolated and alone, because your philosophical beliefs are so different from (and in many cases, diametrically opposed to) those of your neighbors, co-workers, and friends.

FSP early movers to New Hampshire have already observed improvements in every one of these areas. And this is with only roughly 1,550 movers so far! The possibilities for what can be accomplished by the full 20,000 are truly exciting.

⁴<http://freestateproject.org/about/101-reasons-move-new-hampshire>



LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES

Because New Hampshire has cultural traditions of both limited government and local level, community-based, participatory government, it has proven to be ideal for purposes of getting elected to office. Literally dozens of FSP participants have already been elected, despite the fact that the move hasn't officially been triggered yet!

One of the selling points of New Hampshire is its large number of state representatives. In fact, it has 400 of them! This means each state representative represents a mere 3,300 citizens. This has several advantages: it makes it comparatively easy to get elected, it takes very little money to get elected, and representatives are very much held accountable by their constituents. In fact, most state representatives have their home phone numbers listed on the State House website and are readily accessible by phone or email, with no aides serving as go-betweens. Serving as a state representative is essentially a volunteer job, as they are paid only \$100 a year (plus reimbursement for mileage). Yes, you read that right: \$100!

Since 2003, more than a *dozen* FSP early movers, running as both Democrats and Republicans, have been elected to the State House.

Some have already been reelected! They have written bills, passed pro-liberty legislation, defeated anti-liberty legislation, and formed coalitions with liberty-leaning native state representatives. There is, quite simply, nothing like this going on in any other state in the union.

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Here's just a sampling of legislative successes of FSP early movers to date:

- A ban on federal REAL ID requirements passed March 27, 2008, making New Hampshire only the second state (after Montana) to refuse to comply with this unconstitutional legislation.
- A jury nullification bill that went into effect January 1, 2013, that restored the right of a jury to judge the application of the law in relationship to the facts in controversy.
- A knife rights bill, signed by the governor May 18, 2013, removing restrictions on switch-blades, dirks, daggers, and stilettos in New Hampshire, and essentially removing all restrictions on knives in New Hampshire state law. This is the first complete repeal of a state's knife restrictions, ever.
- A re-legalization of medical marijuana bill, signed by the governor on July 23, 2013.

MEDIA COVERAGE

The FSP has received extensive national and even international media coverage over the past ten years. It has been covered by the *New York Times*, *Slate*, the *Wire*, the *Guardian*, the *Boston Globe*,



Reason, and every major New Hampshire newspaper. Some of the best-known libertarians in the world have publicly endorsed it, including Dr. Ron Paul, Judge Andrew Napolitano, comedian Penn Jillette, reporter John Stossel, and Lew Rockwell. It was the subject of the documentary [Libertopia](#).⁵

FSP participants aren't just featured in the media; they are creating it. Numerous radio shows, cable access TV shows, podcasts, YouTube channels, and blogs have been created by FSP early movers, with more cropping up daily! Here is just a small sampling:

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- [Amanda Billyrock](#)⁶—liberty-oriented YouTube channel with over 8,000 subscribers.
- [Sex, Lies and Anarchy](#)⁷—all-female podcast focusing on “life as a libertarian.”
- [Flaming Freedom](#)⁸—libertarian podcast focusing on gay issues.
- [Ridley Report](#)⁹—a professional news videographer reporting from the front lines of the New Hampshire liberty movement.
- [PeaceNewsNow](#)¹⁰—a daily five-minute podcast about people who are living free and spreading peace.
- [FreeKeene](#)¹¹—a very active blog run by Ian Freeman of [Free Talk Live](#),¹² throughout the state.

Free Talk Live deserves a special mention. This award-winning call-in libertarian radio talk show is heard seven nights a week and is syndicated on more than 120 radio stations and two TV stations across the United States. The two primary hosts, Ian Freeman and Mark Edge, relocated themselves and their radio show to New Hampshire from Sarasota, Florida as FSP participants in 2007. In addition to covering current events from a libertarian perspective, they have promoted the FSP heavily and are responsible for garnering hundreds of new signers.

EVENTS

The FSP hosts two annual events as a means of showcasing the state of New Hampshire and encouraging prospective new participants to sign up and move: PorcFest and Liberty Forum. PorcFest is a casual, family-friendly, weeklong camping event held each June, while Liberty Forum is a more formal libertarian conference held in a hotel each winter. Both events have grown to the point where they are now two of the largest annual libertarian events in the United States. Last year's PorcFest attendance was 1,700 people; Liberty Forum's was over 500.

PORCUPINE COMMUNITY

The mascot of the FSP is the porcupine, selected because it's a cute, nonaggressive creature, but you sure don't want to mess with it! Consequently, FSP early movers commonly refer to

⁵ http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1743943/?ref_=fn_al_tt_1

⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/user/ABillyRock>

⁷ <http://sexliesanarchy.com/>

⁸ <http://flamingfreedom.com/>

⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/user/RidleyReport>

¹⁰ <http://peacenewsnow.com/>

¹¹ <http://freekeene.com/>

¹² <http://www.freetalklive.com/>



themselves as “Porcupines.” Possibly the greatest incentive for liberty lovers to join the FSP, and to consider moving as soon as possible as opposed to waiting for 20,000 to sign up, is the burgeoning libertarian community of Porcupines that has blossomed in New Hampshire. There is nothing quite like it anywhere else in the world today. Now, with more than 1,500 early movers of all age ranges working in numerous industries, you may be able to hire a fellow Porcupine for any or all of the following: construction and contracting, electrical work, homeschooling, tutoring, midwife services, auto repair, catering, bed and breakfast services, computer programming, training, gunsmithing, and classes. You can send your children to public, private, or charter schools and they will have Porcupine classmates. You can find like-minded individuals who share your interest in just about anything you can think of: organic gardening, ham radios, horses, dog rescue, travel, creative writing, live music, and pro sports. There are weekly parties, get-togethers in bars, move-in parties to help newly arriving Porcupines unload their trucks. Events range from the family-friendly to the wild ‘n crazy adults-only. There have been several Porcupine weddings, numerous births of new baby porcupets, and, sadly, even a few Porcupine funerals.

You will run into Porcupines at the grocery store, at the mall, at your child’s school, at your local bar. Not only that, you’ll happily discover that many Granite State natives share aspects of your political viewpoint and are happy to welcome you to their neighborhood. Basically, you need never suffer for lack of someone who shares your political viewpoint to talk to in New Hampshire!

This is not to say that you must associate with other Porcupines, as of course, you don’t. Some early movers prefer to keep their association with the FSP fairly low-key, possibly for fear of potential government reprisal. There’s nothing wrong with that; once you’ve moved, and are engaged in liberty activism, your pledge to the FSP has been fulfilled.

GET INVOLVED

SIGN UP

Does this project sound like it’s for you? If so, [sign up!](https://freestateproject.org/user/register)¹³ The sooner we “trigger the move” and start the clock ticking on the five-year deadline for all signers to move, the better. The FSP is an honor-based organization, with each participant giving their word to the others that it is their intention to move to New Hampshire within the designated time-frame, and once there, to exert their fullest practical effort to advance liberty. “Fullest practical effort” is left to each individual to define. For some, it means full-time activism. For others, it means working a full-time job while helping out with liberty projects in their free time. For some, it means running for office, while for others it means helping out on someone else’s campaign. And for many, it has nothing to do with electoral politics at all, but rather advancing liberty via promoting alternative currencies, agorism, new media, or keeping their children out of the public school system by homeschooling. There are many paths to freedom. We hope you will join us.

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¹³ <https://freestateproject.org/user/register>



GET THE NEWSLETTER

The FSP publishes a monthly newsletter highlighting some of the latest activities of participants and providing a bit of Porcupine community flavor. Read it [online](#)¹⁴ or [subscribe](#)¹⁵ to receive it via email.

JOIN YOUR LOCAL GROUP

Gung ho to start meeting other Porcupines, but not ready to move to New Hampshire just yet? You may be able to join, or form your own, local group of FSP participants where you live now! Check out the [FSP forum](#)¹⁶ and look for a thread about your state. If you don't see one, feel free to start your own! Attending local meetups is a great way to make new friends and get involved in the FSP immediately, even if you can't afford a trip to New Hampshire quite yet.

PROMOTE THE FSP

The FSP is primarily a volunteer-run organization. Your help in advertising it and recruiting new signers is critical! Here are a few ways you can promote the FSP from wherever you're currently living:

- Talk about it with friends and family.
- Put a link to it in your email signature.
- Hand out FSP flyers at events where you're likely to meet people concerned with liberty issues. [Contact the FSP](#)¹⁷ to get a supply of flyers.
- Write a letter to the editor of your local paper and mention the FSP.
- Check out the [“Volunteer”](#)¹⁸ page of the FSP website for more ideas.
- [Donate!](#)¹⁹ The sooner we can get the word out about the FSP to as many people as possible, the sooner we can “Trigger the Move” by achieving the 20,000 signups goal. Donations can be used for advertising online and in print media. Any amount is greatly appreciated, and the FSP has been accepting Bitcoin since 2011! (Here's our public address: 18LDvu2nqr8a5AK9AHkkqDK6Z65dzbTgtn)

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¹⁴ <http://freestateproject.org/news/newsletters>
¹⁵ <http://freestateproject.org/subscribe>

¹⁶ <http://forum.freestateproject.org/index.php?board=54.0>
¹⁷ <http://freestateproject.org/contact?edit%5bcid%5d=10>

¹⁸ <http://freestateproject.org/volunteer>
¹⁹ <http://freestateproject.org/donate>



NETWORK

Many Porcupines utilize social media to make new friends, discuss current events, and share news about what's going on in New Hampshire. You can link in to the Porcupine community in a number of ways:

- **Facebook**—this social media platform is extremely popular with many Porcupines. If you use Facebook, be sure to join the official [FSP group](#)²⁰ and [Friends of the FSP](#).²¹ Also “like” the [FSP page](#).²² It's a great way to stay up to date on what's happening on a daily basis. Once you get to New Hampshire, there are numerous other groups used for socializing, arranging local meetups, trading and selling stuff, and special interest groups.
- **Twitter**—[follow the FSP](#)²³ at @FreeStateNH.
- The [forum on the FSP website](#).²⁴

VISIT THE FREE STATE

The best way to experience the Porcupine community for yourself is to come for a visit, and all prospective signers are encouraged to do so. Come see for yourself what you think of New Hampshire and other FSP participants; you may be pleasantly surprised at how normal most of us are! While you can come at any time of the year, the two annual events the FSP hosts are ideal for the purposes of meeting as many Porcupines as possible: PorcFest and Liberty Forum.

The best way to experience the Porcupine community for yourself is to come for a visit.

PORCFEST

The Porcupine Freedom Festival, a.k.a. PorcFest, is a weeklong festival hosted by the FSP each June at [Roger's Campground](#)²⁵ in beautiful Lancaster, in the northern part of the state. This is the single best time to check out the FSP in person. Each year, some participants fall in love with New Hampshire and the Porcupine community so much that they decide to move as soon as possible—some just never leave! The most recent PorcFest was the tenth iteration of the event with an attendance of around 1,700 people, making it one of the largest libertarian events in the country! FSP participants attend from all over the United States and the globe, and early movers from all parts of New Hampshire. Part conference, part agorist market, part camping trip, part party in the Great North Woods—there is something for everyone. Many events are kid-friendly, and more kids (and dogs!) show up every year. Don't be thrown by the fact that it's held at a campground, either; Roger's has an onsite motel, and other motels are close by, so you can find accommodations even if camping is not your thing. For details on the 2014 PorcFest, slated for June 22–29, 2014, keep your eye on [PorcFest.com](#).²⁶

²⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TheFreeStateProject/>

²¹ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Friendsofthe-FreeStateProject/>

²² <https://www.facebook.com/FreeStateProject.org>

²³ <https://twitter.com/FreeStateNH>

²⁴ <http://forum.freestateproject.org/index.php?board=54.0>

²⁵ <http://rogerscampground.com/>

²⁶ <http://porcfest.com/>



LIBERTY FORUM

[New Hampshire Liberty Forum](#)²⁷ is a liberty-focused conference held each winter. The first one, in 2007, was held in the state capital of Concord, and since then they have been held in Nashua. Internationally renowned libertarians have presented keynote addresses, including Ron Paul, John Stossel, and Judge Andrew Napolitano. Liberty Forum provides an opportunity for prospective FSP signers and future movers to meet and mingle with hundreds of other Porcupines, check out one of the larger cities in the state, and experience a bit of New Hampshire winter for themselves (and realize that it's probably not as bad as they've imagined!). Oftentimes, Liberty Forum is the clincher for people on the fence about moving. Come see for yourself.

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For the first time, the [Atlas Society](#)²⁸ will be hosting its annual [Atlas Summit](#)²⁹ in New Hampshire on June 19–22, 2014, right before Porcfest. If you're a fan of Ayn Rand, consider scheduling a visit to coincide with this conference and then stay for another week.

If your visit doesn't coincide with any of those events, there are several ways to coordinate with other Porcupines:

- Send an email to visitnh@freestateproject.org³⁰ with the dates of your visit, and the part of the state you'll be in. We'll do our best to hook you up!
- Post in the [FSP's Facebook group](#).³¹ With well over 6,000 members, this is a quick and easy way to virtually meet and start networking with both other future movers and early movers.
- Post on the [FSP discussion forum](#).³²
- Attend a Porcupine event when you're in the state. Just check the online [New Hampshire Liberty Central Calendar](#).³³ You'll be amazed at the number of events happening every week!

WHERE TO STAY

New Hampshire has a wide range of hotel and motel options; just use your preferred travel website or Google and you'll have no trouble finding something in your price range. However, if you want to jump-start your networking with other Porcupines, there is a Porcupine-run option available (and another in the works). At [Stone Farm on Liberty Acres](#),³⁴ two Porcupines offer short-term lodging and hospitality services on their beautiful farm in Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire. (Contact info: call 603-674-7198; email stonelibertyfarm@live.com³⁵; or, if you have an Airbnb account, you can visit [their webpage for Fitzwilliam](#).³⁶)

²⁷ <http://nhlibertyforum.com/>²⁸ <http://www.atlassociety.org/>³² <http://forum.freestateproject.org/index.php>

²⁹ <http://www.atlassociety.org/as>

³⁰ <mailto:visitnh@freestateproject.org>

³¹ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TheFreeStateProject/>

³³ https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=d908tl7v755t4rfvag6vm55ib8%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America%2FNew_York

³⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/StoneLibertyAcres>

³⁵ <mailto:stonelibertyfarm@live.com>

³⁶ <https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/1386312>



MAKE THE MOVE

Moving yourself, your stuff, and any combination of spouse, kids, and pets to New Hampshire is no easy feat. Rest assured, whatever your current situation, an early mover in a similar situation has already paved the way by making the move and proving that it can be done. Gain encouragement, motivation, and useful tips by [listening to their experiences!](#)³⁷

WHERE TO LIVE

A frequently asked question about the FSP: “Where in New Hampshire should I live?” From the FSP’s perspective, anywhere in the state is fine; it’s all good! From an individual perspective, it can make a great difference economically, climatically, socially, and politically where you choose to settle. What some movers choose to do is to start off in one of the larger population centers, such as Manchester or Keene, and take some time to get the lay of the land and a sense of the local community before committing to a long-term lease or purchasing property. As a general guideline, things are more expensive, crowded, and liberal (i.e., higher influence by the Democrats vs. the Republicans) further south and on the coast; commensurately, these two regions offer the easiest commutes to Boston, if you wind up getting a job there or need frequent access to Logan International Airport. Always consider [Manchester-Boston Regional Airport](#)³⁸ too—it’s a much more pleasant experience than traveling to Massachusetts.

Here is a very brief, unscientific Porcupines’ guide to the regions of New Hampshire:

- **Manchester**—With a population of 110,000, this is the largest city in the state and has the largest population density of FSP early movers. If you’re looking to rent a room from other Porcupines, it will be easiest to do so here. Also, if you don’t own a car, it is possible to get by without one (although your life will be a lot easier if you do have one). Manchester has its [own airport](#),³⁹ offering daily flights throughout the country. The greatest number (but by no means all) of Porcupine parties, meetups, planning sessions, and social gatherings take place here. Learn more about life in Manchester from this Porcupine-created [“Live Free Guide.”](#)⁴⁰
- **Nashua**—This is the second largest city (population 86,500) and is right on the border between New Hampshire and Massachusetts (often referred to as “Taxachusetts”). Nashua has the best shopping in the state; it has almost every big-name chain you can think of. Property is comparatively expensive. Nashua has weekly Porcupine meetups.
- **Keene**—This small, picturesque town (population 23,400) is home to Keene State College. Keene can be easily navigated by bicycle in the summer. It leans more Democratic than much of the state. [Free Talk Live](#)⁴¹ has its studio here, and there is a large Porcupine contingent with weekly meetups and its own meetup space, the [Keene Activist Center.](#)⁴²

³⁷ <http://freestateproject.org/move/mover-stories>

³⁸ <http://www.flymanchester.com/>

³⁹ <http://www.flymanchester.com/>

⁴⁰ <http://livefreeguide.com/>

⁴¹ <http://www.freetalklive.com/>

⁴² <http://forum.shiresociety.com/moving-to-keene/keene-activist-center-%28kac%29-7162/>



- **Concord**—The state capitol (population 42,700) is home to several Porcupines and has a monthly meetup.
- **Seacoast**—Portsmouth (population 21,200) is the most cosmopolitan town in New Hampshire, featuring excellent restaurants and nightlife. Portsmouth itself is one of the pricier parts of the state. The surrounding towns are more affordable and rather seasonal, as the beaches and surrounding roads are packed in the summertime and almost empty in the wintertime. Seacoast Porcupines have bi-weekly get-togethers and other socials. See the [Live Free Guide for Portsmouth](#).⁴³
- **Grafton**—This tiny town (population 1,340) is home to a disproportionately high number of Porcupines, several of whom have succeeded in getting elected to town office. It is definitely out in the boondocks, so if that's the environment you're looking for, it's worth checking out!
- **Lakes Region**—New Hampshire is famous for its lakes region, which attracts boaters and campers in the summer and skiers in the winter. While Porcupines aren't grouped in any particular town, they get together for monthly meetups in Belmont.
- **Upper Valley**—This region encompasses Hanover (home of Dartmouth College) and Lebanon. It offers top-notch hospitals and all the amenities of having an Ivy League school close by. A few Porcupine families live in this area. The [Bardo Project](#)⁴⁴ hosts a weekly, Sunday night potluck gathering.
- **North of the Notches**—This refers to the part of New Hampshire north of Franconia Notch (where the famous [Old Man of the Mountain](#)⁴⁵ used to be). Population density is very low, towns are small, and winters are harsher in this region. While there are some Porcupines in this part of the state, they're few and far between for now. Consider bringing your own telecommuting job with you.

PLANNING YOUR MOVE

The FSP website has a wealth of information to assist in planning and executing your move. Check out the [resources page](#)⁴⁶ for guidance on all of the following:

- [Finding a rental](#)⁴⁷—includes links to Porcupines who rent out rooms in their homes.
- [Buying a house](#)⁴⁸—includes links to Porcupine realtors!

The FSP website has a wealth of information to assist in planning and executing your move.

⁴³ <http://livefreeguide.com/seacoast>

⁴⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Man_of_the_Mountain

⁴⁷ <http://freestateproject.org/resources/housing/renting-home>

⁴⁴ <http://bardoproject.com/>

⁴⁶ <http://freestateproject.org/resources>

⁴⁸ <http://freestateproject.org/resources/housing/buying-home>



- Info on utilities, snow plowing, and more.
- Education options for your children.
- Lists of the major media in New Hampshire, so you can start following local news and find the classified ads.

Early movers have used a number of different strategies for re-locating:

- Locate a job ahead of time, or bring their current job with them by negotiating for permission to telecommute.
- Arrange for a place to live ahead of time by networking online or coming for a visit shortly prior to making the move.
- Moving with just the bare necessities, leaving the bulk of their stuff in storage in their former state and not shipping it until they've settled into a house.
- Renting a box truck or a U-Haul and driving it to New Hampshire.
- Arriving in the state with no arrangements made for a place to stay, no reliable vehicle, no job, very little savings, and hoping to rely on the kindness of strangers. While this strategy has been employed, it tends to not be very effective and is highly discouraged. Please be responsible and have a plan. Porcupines are a very friendly and welcoming group, but we're not your mom!

Early movers have used a number of different strategies for relocating.

MOVING PARTIES

One of the things that pleasantly surprises a lot of new movers is how many Porcupines will cheerfully show up to help you unload your moving truck, and how quickly the job gets done. It's a great way to both meet your new neighbors and take some of the burden off of yourself and your family by accepting help with the heavy lifting. It's not uncommon for one to two dozen people to show up to a moving party. There are several things you can do to maximize attendance:

- Give plenty of advance notice, at least a week if possible. Post it on Facebook and [let the FSP know](http://freestateproject.org/contact?edit%5bcid%5d=12)⁴⁹ about your move. This gives Porcupines a chance to both see it online and fit it into their schedules.

It's not uncommon for one to two dozen people to show up to a moving party.

⁴⁹ <http://freestateproject.org/contact?edit%5bcid%5d=12>



- Offer food and beverages. While no payment is expected or needed at moving parties, it's generally appreciated if you offer to feed the crew afterwards. Pizza, water, soda, and beer work just fine!
- Move on a weekend. Many more people will be available to help if you schedule your move on a Saturday or Sunday.
- Avoid scheduling a move during PorcFest or Liberty Forum. Since many in-state Porcs attend these two events, the pool of available manpower (Porcupower?) is greatly diminished at these times.
- Remember, it's a pay-it-forward system. If you were helped, be sure to help the next mover you can!

JOBS

One of the questions most frequently asked by potential movers is, can I get a job in New Hampshire? Absolutely! In fact, New Hampshire's economy is booming, and unemployment is much lower than other states. Early movers have successfully obtained all kinds of employment: IT, retail, hospitality services, trucking, medical, teaching, engineering, and entrepreneurial. The Boston metropolitan area is also just south of the state, but do keep in mind that if you get a job in Massachusetts, you'll be stuck paying MA state income tax (New Hampshire has no personal income tax!). Also, commuting in the Boston area can be a nightmare, so be sure to do research to gain accurate drive times between one place and another, and consider commuting by bus or commuter rail, if it comes to that. But it shouldn't come to that because New Hampshire has jobs!

New Hampshire's economy is booming, and unemployment is much lower than other states.

The FSP website has several helpful links for job-hunters:

- [Job search links](#).⁵⁰
- A list of some of the [larger employers in the state](#).⁵¹
- Join the [FSP job alert page](#)⁵² on Facebook. This is a great resource for openings.
- [Networking options](#),⁵³ including a Porcupine-run Facebook group where in-state Porcupines post job openings several times a week.
- A list of in-state [temp agencies and recruiters](#).⁵⁴

⁵⁰ <http://freestateproject.org/resources/jobs/job-search>

⁵² <https://www.facebook.com/groups/fspjobalert/>

⁵⁴ <http://freestateproject.org/resources/jobs/recruiters>

⁵¹ <http://freestateproject.org/resources/jobs/companies>

⁵³ <http://freestateproject.org/resources/jobs/networking>



PLUGGING IN

It's very easy to plug in to the Porcupine community in New Hampshire. You'll be amazed and gratified at how many like-minded neighbors and friends you gain.

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THE QUILL

The Quill is a private club founded and operated by Porcupines in Manchester. For the past three years, it has provided a central location for Porcupines to meet, socialize, and work on activist projects. Social events such as parties, poker, Magic the Gathering, and movie nights take place weekly. Members pay monthly dues to cover operational costs of the club, and new members must be vouched for by at least three other members. The Quill hosts an open, monthly, new movers' party called Plug N' Play on the first Tuesday evening of each month starting at 7:00 p.m. All new and potential movers are encouraged to attend.

AREA 23

An exciting new addition to the list of Porcupine meet-up places is Area 23, a converted warehouse space in northeast Manchester that opened in October 2013. It has been offering a wide range of adult education classes as part of the [Informal University](http://informalu.org/),⁵⁵ social events, and movie nights. It also hosts the new office space of the Free State Project. The best way to get in the loop is to request to join Area 23's [Facebook group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/579467048793270/).⁵⁶

FREE KEENE

Keene has a very active group of Porcupines who will often organize a lunch or dinner to accommodate the schedule of visitors and new movers. Keene also has its own private club called the Keene Activist Center, or KAC for short. There are a few ways to plug into the Keene Porcupine community:

- Join the [Shire Society forum](http://forum.shiresociety.com/).⁵⁷
- Post in the [FSP Group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/579467048793270/)⁵⁸ on Facebook.
- [Contact the FSP](http://freestateproject.org/contact?edit%5bcid%5d=12)⁵⁹ and they'll pass the word along to the Keeniacs.

LOCAL GROUPS

As mentioned in the Where to Live section of this guide, Porcupines have regularly scheduled

⁵⁵ <http://informalu.org/>

⁵⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/579467048793270/>

⁵⁷ <http://forum.shiresociety.com/>

⁵⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TheFreeStateProject/>

⁵⁹ <http://freestateproject.org/contact?edit%5bcid%5d=12>



monthly meetups in various towns in New Hampshire. These meetups are family-friendly and are an ideal way to get to know other Porcupines in your part of the state.

Porcupines have regularly scheduled monthly meetups in various towns in New Hampshire.

- Merrimack Valley Porcupines meet on the first Saturday of each month: 11:00 a.m. at the Quill. The address is 131 Amory St. in Manchester. Meetings generally run for an hour to an hour and a half, with socializing and mingling afterwards. Breakfast is often available for purchase prior to the meeting.
- Concord Porcupines meet on the second Saturday of each month, noon, at [Tandy's Top Shelf](#)⁶⁰ restaurant. It is located at 1 Eagle Square in Concord.
- Lakes Region Porcupines meet on the third Saturday of each month, noon, at 12 Old State Rd., Unit 3 in Belmont.
- New Hampshire Seacoast Liberty Bi-Weekly Meetup is every other Wednesday, from 7:30–10:30 p.m. at [LaFesta Brick & Brew Pizza](#).⁶¹ The address is 300 Central Ave. in Dover.

WEEKLY MEETUPS

In addition to the Porcupine group meetups listed above, there are a number of informal weekly get-togethers open to all. Just show up and start introducing yourself!

There are a number of informal weekly get-togethers open to all.

- **Taproom Tuesday**—For years, Porcupines have been meeting on Tuesday evenings at [Murphy's Taproom](#),⁶² a Porcupine-owned Irish pub in Manchester. Appetizers are half-price until six, and beer is two dollars all evening long! Porcupines are usually there from five until eight.
- **Social Sunday**—Every Sunday evening from six until seven thirty, [McCue's](#)⁶³ (12 Emerald St. in Keene) hosts this event. The backup location is Panera, located at 298 West St. If McCue's is closed or is packed with a college pub crawl (which happens a couple times a year) the meeting will be held there instead.
- **Nashua Liberty Meetup**—This meetup happens every Sunday evening from six until eight at [Martha's Exchange](#),⁶⁴ located at 185 Main Street Nashua in New Hampshire. The Porcupines can usually be found to the left, at the large table in the back.
- **Winchester Movie Night**—Every Tuesday evening, [Porc Manor Winchester](#)⁶⁵ hosts a movie night. The movie is selected at 7:25 p.m. Bring a movie you would like to see and something to eat or drink.

⁶⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/TandysTopShelf>

⁶¹ <http://www.lafestabrickandbrew.com/>

⁶² <http://murphystaproom.net/>

⁶³ <http://www.mccues.com/>

⁶⁴ <http://www.marthas-exchange.com/>

⁶⁵ <http://www.porcmanor.com/content/porc-manor-winchester>



EXPANDING LIBERTY

You've finally made the move. You've met some people. Now what? This is where you join in with the hundreds of other Porcupines working to expand liberty in the Free State in a mind-boggling number of ways. Remember the FSP pledge: "... Once there, I will exert the fullest practical effort toward the creation of a society in which the maximum role of civil government is the protection of individuals' life, liberty, and property." Of course, you're free to work alone, or to start something entirely new. But there's no point in recreating the wheel, so familiarize yourself with the many organizations and strategies already being employed in the state so that you can join in as you choose. Network, ask questions, and contribute to established projects where you can.

ELECTORAL POLITICS

Many Porcupines choose to get involved in in-state politics. There are numerous ways to do so:

- Start attending meetings of your preferred political party.
- Assist on the campaign of someone running for office. This often involves handing out fliers, doing a sign wave during commute hours, and holding a sign at the polls on Election Day.
- Get involved in your town's government. Start attending city council meetings, or whichever committee meetings interest you most, such as budget, education, or zoning.
- Run for town office. Many positions remain vacant because no one runs for them, and many candidates run unopposed. You'll be surprised at how easy it is to get elected in your town.

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You'll be surprised at how easy it is to get elected in your town.

- Run for state representative. You must live in New Hampshire for two years to be eligible to run. Also, keep in mind that serving as a state representative is a serious time commitment. The legislature generally meets in Concord three days a week for several months each year, and committee responsibilities are an additional time commitment. But if politics is your passion, you'll find that you can truly make a difference in the lives of all New Hampshire residents by working with other liberty-minded representatives in the state legislature.

Porcupines are working within all three of the largest political parties. Here's the contact info:

- [Republican Party of New Hampshire](http://nhgop.org/)⁶⁶

⁶⁶ <http://nhgop.org/>



- [Democratic Party of New Hampshire](#)⁶⁷
- [Libertarian Party of New Hampshire](#)⁶⁸

NEW HAMPSHIRE LIBERTY ALLIANCE

Many Porcupines join the [New Hampshire Liberty Alliance](#)⁶⁹ (NHLA), and several have served on its board of directors over the past ten years. The NHLA is a nonpartisan coalition working to increase individual freedom in New Hampshire. It does this by monitoring bills in the legislative sessions and encouraging private charity, a civil society, and citizen involvement. This all-volunteer organization uses a Porcupine-designed software system to review every single bill that gets introduced in the state legislature each session, and to rate it on its pro- and anti-liberty attributes. It puts together a weekly handout called the “Gold Standard” that volunteers distribute to members of the House of Representatives prior to their vote, in order to educate them as to whether a given bill is pro- or anti-liberty. The “Gold Standard” forms the foundation for the annual [“Liberty Rating.”](#)⁷⁰ a report card that scores representatives and senators. The “Liberty Rating” is based on pro-liberty and anti-liberty votes and their impact on the state of New Hampshire. Pro-liberty votes protect individual freedom of choice and personal responsibility, recognize the superiority of freedom over coercion, respect the citizen’s right of self-ownership, promote good government, and recognize the value of voluntary economic decisions. Anti-liberty votes replace self-governance with interventionist ownership, assume that agencies backed by force are superior to voluntary choices backed by personal accountability, and assume that a better economy can be designed by a central authority compelling communities to pay for policies not willingly supported. The NHLA announces their annual report at their Liberty Dinner at which they honor the [Legislator of the Year](#).⁷¹

The NHLA is always looking for new volunteers to help with its important work. Bill reviewing is something you can work on from the comfort of your own home, even before you’ve moved to New Hampshire. They host training sessions on bill reviewing, as well as provide training on how to deliver effective testimony at the State House, and how to run a successful campaign for office. To volunteer, check out their [website](#),⁷² join their [Facebook group](#),⁷³ sign up for their [newsletter](#),⁷⁴ or attend one of their monthly meetings. The NHLA meets on the second Saturday of the month at one thirty at Tandy’s Top Shelf (right after the Concord Porcupines meetup).

There is also a group, founded by Porcupines, working to get New Hampshire to peacefully secede. Check out the [Foundation for New Hampshire Independence](#)⁷⁵ for more information.

⁶⁷ <http://nhdp.org/>

⁶⁸ <http://lpmh.org/>

⁶⁹ <http://www.nhliberty.org/>

⁷⁰ http://www.nhliberty.org/liberty_ratings

⁷¹ <http://www.nhliberty.org/honors>

⁷² <http://www.nhliberty.org/volunteer>

⁷³ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/31845266648/>

⁷⁴ <http://www.nhliberty.org/mailchimp/subscribe>

⁷⁵ <http://nhindependence.org/>



VOLUNTARYISM

A significant number of Porcupines eschew electoral politics and prefer to work on developing a free society via nonpolitical, nonviolent strategies. Here are a few of the methods voluntaryist Porcs have been using in New Hampshire.

- **Cop Block**⁷⁶—The militarization of US police forces is of grave concern to many Porcupines. Some Porcupines engage in filming police activity to promote accountability. When the police post a sobriety checkpoint, they gather with hand-made signs a block or two in front of the checkpoint to warn oncoming motorists. A few Porcupines currently have lawsuits in progress for police misconduct.

Militarization of US police forces is of grave concern to many Porcupines.

“Robin hooders” have “robbed” the city of Keene of so much revenue that the city is suing them!

- **Robin hooding**⁷⁷—This activity was started in Keene a few years ago as a way to rescue motorists from being ticketed by parking enforcers. They feed expired parking meters, and have gained national media coverage for their activity. “Robin hooders” have “robbed” the city of Keene of so much revenue that the city is suing them!
- **Civil disobedience**—Following in the footsteps of Thoreau, some Porcupines have chosen to perform acts of civil disobedience and, in some cases, gone to jail as a way to spread the ideas of liberty. A few examples include the following:
 - *Peacefully occupying the home of Susette Kelo after it was seized by eminent domain in New London, CT.*
 - *Performing a public manicure without the proper licensing.*
 - *Publicly and openly possessing a marijuana plant.*
 - *Choosing to drive without a license and/or a registered vehicle.*
- **Mediation**—Several Porcupines have chosen to resolve disputes via private mediation rather than through the court system. A trained Porcupine mediator is available to provide such services.
- **Adopt-A-Block**—Rather than relying on tax-funded employees to clean up litter, Porcupines have taken personal responsibility for the cleanliness of their own blocks by adopting the block and organizing litter picks. There have also been litter pickups in public parks and on stretches of highway adopted by the NHLA and the FSP. It’s a dirty job, but someone’s got to do it!

⁷⁶ <http://www.copblock.org/>

⁷⁷ <http://freekeene.com/shire/robin-hood/>



- [Shire Sharing](#)⁷⁸—Founded in 2011, Shire Sharing is a not-for-profit Porcupine group that delivers Thanksgiving dinner to the needy. Volunteers assemble care packages of turkey with all the fixings, and vegetarian meals for immigrant families whose cultures preclude them from eating meat. Then, they hand deliver them to the doors of low income people in several towns. In its first year, a team of Shire Sharing volunteers fed 200 people. In 2012, it grew to 650 people, and in 2013, 1,300 people were fed! Shire Sharing demonstrates that true charity is voluntary.
- [Porc 411](#)⁷⁹—Porcupines have their own version of 911 emergency services. Voicemails left at 603-413-0411 are distributed to all those who subscribe to the service. Porcupines have used Porc 411 to request roadside assistance, report problems with the police, and announce social events. Messages can be received via email, podcast, MMS-message, or [listened to online](#).⁸⁰

FIREARMS

The right to keep and bear arms is an issue near and dear to the hearts of many Porcupines. There are several ways to get involved in both gun-rights activism and shooting for fun and self-defense. Here are a few links:

- [Second Amendment Sisters](#)⁸¹ hold monthly, all-women get-togethers at a range in Manchester, where trained, NRA instructors are on hand to provide training and support. Newbies are welcome! Dozens of pistol-packing, liberty-loving ladies attend these meetings.
- [Wilson Hill Pistol Club](#)⁸² is a nonprofit club/range where the Second Amendment Sisters hold their monthly shoots and where many Manchester-area Porcs go for shooting practice. They offer NRA certified training classes. If you don't live near Manchester, there are also several [fish and game clubs](#)⁸³ in the state.
- [Gun Owners of New Hampshire](#)⁸⁴ is the NRA affiliate organization for New Hampshire.
- [New Hampshire Firearms Coalition, Inc.](#)⁸⁵—from its website: “New Hampshire’s only No Compromise Gun Rights Organization. While many so-called ‘gun rights groups’ work to curry favor with politicians and the media, NHFC is working aggressively to hold politicians accountable and to put a stop to gun control.”
- [Pro-Gun New Hampshire](#)⁸⁶ is “a statewide membership organization that protects Second Amendment rights within the state of New Hampshire. With a mature leadership of current and former state senators and representatives, police chiefs, and others respected by the legislature, we influence state legislation through the personal efforts and honorable conduct of our leadership and members.”

⁷⁸ <http://shiresharing.org/>

⁷⁹ <http://nh.porcupine411.com/>

⁸⁰ <http://nh.porcupine411.com/category/audio-messages/>

⁸¹ <http://www.2asisters.net/nh/>

⁸² <http://wilsonhillpistol.org/>

⁸³ http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Links/fish_and_game_clubs.htm

⁸⁴ <http://www.gonh.org/>

⁸⁵ <http://www.nhfc-ontarget.org/>

⁸⁶ <http://freestateproject.org/resources/regulations/guns-and-hunting/pro-gun-new-hampshire>



FOOD FREEDOM

Food freedom, eating locally, organic gardening, homesteading, and self-sufficiency are important topics for a number of Porcs. In fact, [Joel Salatin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joel_Salatin)⁸⁷ was a keynote speaker at the 2012 [Liberty Forum](http://www.nhlibertyforum.com).⁸⁸ Much of New Hampshire is fairly rural and there are numerous farms and farmers' markets throughout the state where you can purchase locally grown produce and humanely raised, grass-fed meat. Several food-related Porcupine groups have been formed:

- [Manchester Community Grange](https://www.facebook.com/groups/517404131606225/?bookmark_t=group)⁸⁹ is a Manchester chapter of the [National Grange](http://www.nationalgrange.org),⁹⁰ organized by a group of Porcupines and locals in 2012. It is now helping to run a greenhouse at [New Horizons](http://www.newhorizonsforh.org),⁹¹ a homeless shelter and soup kitchen in Manchester. By 2014, the greenhouse should be providing all of the produce needed to feed 200 people daily.
- [Shire Co-Op](https://www.facebook.com/groups/152225991481591/)⁹² is a pooled buying club that allows its members to purchase high-quality natural and organic foods in bulk at wholesale prices. It has monthly meetups at the Quill in Manchester.
- [Bardo Farm](http://bardofarm.com/)⁹³ is a Porcupine-run, off-the-grid, unintentional community in Croydon focusing on sustainability. They utilize a combination of livestock, gardening, maple-sugaring, and forestry. Bardo hosts regular events and sells meat and other farm goods to the local community. Many Porcupines swear by their meat products!

Food freedom, eating locally, organic gardening, homesteading, and self-sufficiency are important topics for a number of Porcs.

Homebrewing is a popular pastime in New Hampshire, a state that routinely tops the list of states drinking the most beer.

- Homebrewing is a popular pastime in New Hampshire, a state that routinely tops the list of states drinking the most beer. Area 23 offers courses in homebrewing, and plenty of Porcs will be glad to trade homebrewing tips.
- Chickens. So many Porcupines raise chickens, there's no need to ever buy eggs at the grocery store again! Backyard chicken coops are legal in most towns, and if raising chickens is something you've always wanted to try, your new Porcupine neighbors will be happy to share tips and tricks with you.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The right to worship (or not) was one of the founding tenets of this country and is vitally important to many Porcupines. New Hampshire has many churches covering all of the larger

⁸⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joel_Salatin ⁸⁸ <http://www.nhlibertyforum.com> ⁸⁹ https://www.facebook.com/groups/517404131606225/?bookmark_t=group ⁹⁰ <http://www.nationalgrange.org/> ⁹¹ <http://www.newhorizonsforh.org/> ⁹² <https://www.facebook.com/groups/152225991481591/> ⁹³ <http://bardofarm.com/>



religions. So, whatever your faith, you should have no trouble finding a [house of worship](#).⁹⁴

The Free State has even spawned three new churches, so if none of the traditional churches appeals to you, you might want to check them out:

Whatever your faith,
you should have no
trouble finding a
house of worship.

- [Church of the Sword](#)⁹⁵ (CotS)—The CotS congregation has been meeting regularly on Sunday mornings for years now and is registered with the State of New Hampshire. Founded by three early movers, members come from many faiths. The church beliefs state: “We do not believe that any one religion holds a monopoly on the truth, nor do we believe that the universe IS fully knowable. We do not require members to believe in a god or gods, nor is such belief a hindrance to membership. We believe in life-long learning, self-ownership, and independent thought. To this end we encourage the acquisition of skills that permit the individual to live in co-operation with other individuals.” CotS services are unorthodox. They include sword-fighting, readings from books of wisdom, rants, drinking, and pie. The Church meets every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. at Area 23. The address is 875 Page Street on the second floor in Manchester.
- [Shire Free Church](#)⁹⁶—From its website: “The Shire Free Church offers a sanctuary for those seeking an escape from state churches. The Shire Free Church is an interfaith, diverse group of people who may not share identical theological beliefs. As a member in or minister of the Shire Free Church, you are a sovereign individual and may be the faith of your choice whether it be Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Daoist, Jewish, Quaker, etc., or following your inner light. Monotheists, polytheists, pantheists, panentheists, and atheists are all welcome, as long as you are peaceful.” The Shire Free Church was founded in Keene.
- [Peaceful Assembly Church](#)⁹⁷—From its website: “Our mission is to foster Peace as prescribed by God. We are ecumenical and interfaith. All Peaceful people (of any faith, none at all, or something in between) are always welcome. The Peaceful Assembly Church is located at 860 Main Street in Grafton.”

ECONOMICS

Currency that isn’t controlled by a central government is a critical component of a free society. Porcupines are exploring a number of ways to weaken the Federal Reserve’s hold on the New Hampshire economy.

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Reserve’s hold on the
New Hampshire economy.

- [Bitcoin](#)⁹⁸—Several FSP early movers were very early adopters of this growing cryptocurrency. General awareness of, and participation in, the bitcoin economy is much more advanced among New Hampshire Porcupines than among the US population in general.

⁹⁴ <http://www.directorynh.com/NHChurches-Religion/NH-Churches-And-Houses-of-Worship.html>

⁹⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/churchofthesword/> ⁹⁶ <http://shiresociety.com/the-shire/church/>

⁹⁷ <http://www.peacefulassemblychurch.org/> ⁹⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/freestatebitcoin/>



Bitcoin entrepreneurs and aficionados have been holding weekly meetups in Manchester for two years now; Keene and the Seacoast have recently begun hosting regular meetups as well. Several Porcupines are working in the burgeoning bitcoin industry, both with known companies and startups. A few New Hampshire businesses already accept payment in bitcoin, and activists are working to encourage more businesses to begin doing so. Meetups alternate between Saturdays and Sundays and are generally held at 6:30 p.m. in a bar in downtown Manchester. Check the [Facebook group](#)⁹⁹ for details.

- Silver—Many Porcupines store some of their savings in the form of silver (and gold) and use it as a form of payment when possible. A few silver-specific businesses have been established:
- [Shire Silver](#)¹⁰⁰ sells silver (and gold) in convenient credit-card-like packages.
- [Suns of Liberty Mint](#)¹⁰¹ specializes in divisible silver.
- Agorism—Some Porcupines focus their activism in market anarchism/counter-economics. They're running businesses and selling products and services without involving the State in any way. PorcFest has become a model of agorism in action, with [Agora Valley](#)¹⁰² offering a wide variety of food, products, and services that can be purchased with assorted alternative currencies.

EDUCATION

Few things are more important to parents than the freedom to raise and educate their children as they see fit. Some Porcupines are focusing their efforts on working to make New Hampshire a freer place to educate children by fighting to keep Common Core requirements out of the state system, encouraging and working for homeschoolers' rights, and teaching in charter schools.

There is a growing homeschool community in New Hampshire, with several different varieties of homeschooling utilized, including [unschooling](#).¹⁰³ If you choose to homeschool, you'll have plenty of other families to network with. Here's a [link](#)¹⁰⁴ to New Hampshire homeschooling resources. Tutoring is also available.

Manchester has a few private and charter schools which are attended by some Porcupine youngsters. They include [Liberty Harbor Academy](#)¹⁰⁵ and [Polaris Charter School](#).¹⁰⁶ A complete list of accredited charter schools in the state is available [here](#).¹⁰⁷

A number of Porcupine mothers prefer natural child birthing. Reputable midwives and doulas are available, to provide both education and training and to assist with the actual delivery.

There is a growing homeschool community in New Hampshire, with several different varieties of homeschooling utilized.

⁹⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/freestatebitcoin/>

¹⁰⁰ <https://shiresilver.com/>

¹⁰¹ <http://sunsoflibertymint.com/>

¹⁰² <http://porcfest.com/vendors/agora-valley/>

¹⁰³ <http://unschoolbus.com/>

¹⁰⁴ <http://www.directorynh.com/NHAssociations-Organizations/NHHomeschoolingOrganizations.html>

¹⁰⁵ <http://www.libertyharboracademy.org/>

¹⁰⁶ <http://polarischarter.wordpress.com/>

¹⁰⁷ http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/school_improve/charter/approved.htm



SOCIAL SCENE

Porcupines love to party! In fact, many early movers say their social lives are far more active since moving to New Hampshire than they were before. Parties take place weekly at both the Quill and Area 23. People throw BBQs in the summer and invite their Porcupine friends. House parties are held regularly and are generally set up as “Friend of a Friend” Facebook events, meaning once you get to know a few people, you’ll start seeing the invitations.

In addition to parties, there are plenty of fun alternatives for hanging out with other Porcupines. There are regular poker games at both the Quill and Area 23, a weekly Magic the Gathering meetup, and periodic board game parties, themed costume parties, chess matches, and impromptu classes. Outings are organized to attend movies or shows in Boston and Manchester.

Many early movers, particularly younger adults, move away from their families when they relocate to New Hampshire. The holidays can be challenging when your loved ones are far away. For several years now, Porcupines have hosted potluck get-togethers on Thanksgiving and Christmas so that no one needs to spend a holiday alone.

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RESOURCES

By now you should have a sense of the huge array of activities going on in New Hampshire and the many resources available to help you plan your move, get settled in, and get connected to the local community of FSP Porcupines. Here’s a summary of the FSP and Porcupine links provided throughout this guide.

FREE STATE PROJECT LINKS

[Free State Project contact form](http://freestateproject.org/contact?edit%5bcid%5d=7)¹⁰⁸

[Liberty Forum](http://nhlibertyforum.com/)¹⁰⁹

[PorcFest](http://porcfest.com/)¹¹⁰

[Mover Stories](http://freestateproject.org/move/mover-stories)¹¹¹

[FSP Resources page](http://freestateproject.org/resources)¹¹²

[FSP monthly newsletters](http://freestateproject.org/news/newsletters)¹¹³

[FSP forum](http://forum.freestateproject.org/)¹¹⁴

[101 Reasons to Move to New Hampshire](http://freestateproject.org/about/101-reasons-move-new-hampshire)¹¹⁵

[FSP on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/groups/TheFreeStateProject/)¹¹⁶

¹⁰⁸ <http://freestateproject.org/contact?edit%5bcid%5d=7> ¹¹² <http://freestateproject.org/resources>

¹⁰⁹ <http://nhlibertyforum.com/>

¹¹⁰ <http://porcfest.com/>

¹¹¹ <http://freestateproject.org/move/mover-stories>

¹¹³ <http://freestateproject.org/news/newsletters>

¹¹⁴ <http://forum.freestateproject.org/>

¹¹⁵ <http://freestateproject.org/about/101-reasons-move-new-hampshire>

¹¹⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TheFreeStateProject/>



PORCUPINE FACEBOOK GROUPS

[Porcupines](#)¹¹⁷

[Friends of the Free State Project](#)¹¹⁸ is open for general discussion on liberty issues.

[Area23](#)¹¹⁹

[Free State Bitcoin Consortium](#)¹²⁰—membership is restricted to participants and friends of the FSP.

[Bitcoin New Hampshire](#)¹²¹ is open to the public.

[Manch Happy Hour & Fun Stuff](#)¹²² is a Facebook group used to organize meetups in bars, house parties, and spontaneous get-togethers in Manchester.

[FSP Job Alert](#)¹²³



SANDY PIERRE

Sandy Pierre is a longtime liberty activist and was one of the first 200 people to join the Free State Project. In 2005 she drove solo cross-country from Oakland, California, to Manchester, New Hampshire, to “make the move.” In addition to volunteering for the FSP, Sandy has been active in the Libertarian Party, the New Hampshire Liberty Alliance, and the Granite State ID coalition. When not fighting for liberty, she enjoys obsessive rewatching of *Firefly* and posting silly cat pictures on Facebook.

REGIONAL PORCUPINE GROUP LINKS

[Merrimack Valley Porcupines](#)¹²⁴

[Concord Porcupines](#)¹²⁵

[Nashua Liberty](#)¹²⁶

[Keeniacs](#)¹²⁷

[Upper Valley Freedom Fighters](#)¹²⁸

[NH Liberty Central Calendar](#)¹²⁹

¹¹⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/168942586498/>

¹¹⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FriendsoftheFreeStateProject/>

¹¹⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/579467048793270/>

¹²⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/freestatebitcoin/>

¹²¹ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bitcoinnh/>

¹²² <https://www.facebook.com/groups/195179197196233/>

¹²³ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/fspjobalert/>

¹²⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/18721079887/>

¹²⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/373786349425343/>

¹²⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NashuaLibertySocial/>

¹²⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/keeniacs/>

¹²⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WNHforRONPAUL/>

¹²⁹ https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=d908tl7v755t4rfvag6vm55ib8%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America%2FNew_York