

FFRF – Valley of the Sun Chapter
Program Plans – May 31, 2019

The activities for FFRF-Valley of the Sun Chapter will be initially focused on the areas of public education and community building.

Our educational program will consist of organizing events and speakers focused on educating the public on the current and historical damage done by basing personal decisions and public policies on religious beliefs and the benefits of living a life and supporting public policies based on provable facts and reason-based analysis of probable results. These events will take the form of organized presentations by knowledgeable speakers and discussion groups with people who share an interest in exploring alternatives to faith-based belief systems. We will also seek to attract audiences to learn about how our government works, how many faith-based policies divert and pervert public funding to promote the perpetuation of religious beliefs and what they can do to influence the adoption of better policies.

FFRF – VS plans to feature several programs per year emphasizing community building. Each program will have a short ice-breaker where members and guests can become acquainted with each other – sharing personal, professional and general interests. Each program will have a presentation, generally on topical issues, with an emphasis on “citizen participation and civic engagement” for rebuilding the active participation of citizens in our constitutional representative democracy. We will invite and engage members of the millennial and generation “Z” population as presenters and participants to encourage increased involvement in voting or citizenship advocacy. The younger generations are much more secular and less likely to have religious ties than do more established citizens. They also have more at stake on the issues of climate change, income equality, tuition loan burdens and the government gridlock that prevents our government from effectively addressing these problems.

To help us make these programs successful, we will work in cooperation with the National FFRF organization and with local groups such as the Humanist Society of Greater Phoenix and Secular Coalition and Secular Communities for Arizona. These groups have been pioneers in the professionalization of Secular and non-theistic community building and public policy advocacy. We will also work with

local SSA chapters and other organizations that have members and supporters in our target demographics.

In the execution of the above plans we will remain vigilant to the constraints imposed by our 501(c)3 status and observe the appropriate boundaries between our educational efforts and any lobbying and political activism activities our members choose to participate in, as individuals or as members of other organizations.