



START YOUR COUNCILS!

Five Easy Steps for Creating Your Own Council of Moms or Council of Dads

1. Choose Your Guidelines

There are no rules for creating a successful Council, but these questions might help.

Would you like to have one sex, or both? Family, or just friends?

How many members feels right? Three? Six? Twelve?

Should you pick only one friend from each phase of your life, or more than one?

2. Select Your Council

Council members might come from any time or part of your life.

Different stages – school, camp, work, parenting.

Different parts of your personality – spirituality, romance, love of the outdoors.

Different activities – fishing, cooking, singing, volunteering.

3. Invite Your Members

Inviting members into your Council can be a deeply moving experience.

Do it in person, either alone or with your spouse

Plan an outing or a special occasion

Prepare talking points

Write a letter that your Council member can take home

4. Unveil Your Council

Introduce the members to your children – and to one another.

If you can assemble everyone at one time, do it in person

If not, tell the children in advance and reinforce when they see each member

Ask each member to play a specific role: NatureParent, SportsParent, DreamParent, etc.

5. Establish Your Traditions

Start your Council and then let it evolve (with a little help)!

Encourage regular visits of the members with your kids

Plan annual gatherings where some or all of the members can gather

Use e-mail, Facebook, Skype, etc. to share photos, letters, best wishes

Visit councilofdads.com or councilofmoms.com to set up a private social network

Have Fun!

**Share Your Stories, Tips, and Advice with Others on
COUNCILOFDADS.COM**