Serra Satellite Clubs
Fact Sheet

What is a Serra Satellite Club?
Satellites provide a new option for areas interested in forming a Serra Club that have not gained enough members to form a stand-alone club. A satellite functions as short-term, transitional step on the way to becoming a full, independent club. Satellites do not have their own charter--they are an extension of a chartered club. Satellites are beneficial because they allow current clubs to grow and extend membership in ways that they cannot do within their current structure. They attract different generations as well as those who cannot currently commit to meeting times and locations. Satellites generate a new base of members who bring fresh energy, perspectives, and insights.

Starting a Satellite

Is there a minimum or maximum number of members for a satellite?
A new satellite must have at least six members at the time it forms.

Is there a minimum number of members for the sponsor club?
No.

How are satellites named?
Satellites have the same name as the sponsor club, plus a qualifier that distinguishes it from the original club, for example:

- Sponsor and satellite clubs that meet at different times
  - Sponsor: Serra Club of Harlingen
  - Satellite: Serra Satellite of Harlingen

- Sponsor club and satellite that have different meeting locations
  - Sponsor: Serra Club of McAllen
  - Satellite: Serra Satellite of McAllen—Weslaco
**Board and Governance**

Can a satellite create a separate board with a different set of officers from the sponsor club?

Satellites set up their own board and have their own officers. However, instead of a president, a satellite has a chair.

If there are two boards, how are disagreements handled?

The board of the sponsor club has the final authority when there are disagreements.

Does the leadership of the satellite have a position on the sponsor club’s board?

This is not required but is highly recommended. It is strongly recommended that the chair of the satellite serve as a trustee for the sponsoring club to ensure strong communication.

Can a satellite have separate bylaws?

Yes. The satellite determines its bylaws in collaboration with its sponsor club within the guidelines established by Serra International.

Who decides where and when the satellite meets?

The satellite determines its meeting place and time in consultation with its sponsor club.

Does the satellite meet with the sponsor club?

The satellite club should have a separate meeting although it needs to meet jointly with the sponsor club from time to time.

Do satellites need to set goals?

All clubs and satellites are strongly encouraged to set goals to achieve success. Utilize tools such as SPARK to promote, affirm, and support priestly vocations and religious life.

**Membership and Dues**

Are satellite members Serrans?

Yes, they are members of the sponsor club.

Does the sponsor club need to approve new satellite’s members?

The sponsor club and satellite should work out a process for adding new satellite members at the time the satellite is being formed. The sponsor club should also add that process to its bylaws. If a conflict arises with satellite membership, the sponsor club
makes the final decision. As members of the sponsor club, satellite members are ultimately subject to the authority of the sponsor club’s board.

Do satellite members pay Serra dues?
Yes. Satellite members are Serrans and pay the same Serra dues as the sponsor club’s members.

Do satellites receive a dues invoice?
No. The satellite members are included on the sponsor club’s dues invoices.

Can a satellite have a separate dues structure?
Yes. The satellite decides its dues structure with approval of sponsor club board

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