Couch Mountain Community Forum Standards

Maintaining good social media etiquette is essential for creating a positive and respectful online community. The goal of neighborhood groups is to foster a sense of community, provide valuable information, and to connect neighbors in a positive way. By following the etiquette guidelines listed below, all can contribute to a welcoming and friendly online environment.

 Our community's adopted guidelines are as follows:

1. **Be Respectful:** Treat others with kindness and respect. Remember that there are real people behind the profiles, and your words can have an impact. Avoid offensive language, personal attacks, or derogatory comments.

2. **Stay On-Topic:** Keep your posts relevant to the neighborhood or community. Off-topic posts can clutter the group and make it difficult for others to find relevant information.

3. **Use Clear and Concise Language:** When posting, use clear and concise language to convey your message effectively. Avoid using excessive jargon or overly complex language that might confuse others.

4. **Fact-Check Before Posting:** Ensure the information you're sharing is accurate and reliable. Misinformation can spread quickly, so take a moment to verify facts before sharing.

5. **Be Mindful of Privacy:** Respect people's privacy by refraining from sharing personal information without their consent. This includes addresses, phone numbers, photos, and other sensitive materials and details.

6. **Avoid Over-Promotion:** While it's fine to share local events and businesses, avoid excessive self-promotion or spamming the group with advertisements or other self-serving posts.

7. **Engage Constructively:** When commenting on posts, aim to provide helpful and constructive input. Avoid making negative or unhelpful comments that can lead to conflicts.

8. **Use Proper Formatting and Spelling:** Make your posts and comments easy to read by using proper formatting and checking your spelling and grammar.

9. **Respect Administrator and Group Rules:** Each forum group usually has its own set of rules. Make sure to read and follow these rules. If you have a disagreement, address it with the administrator privately rather than airing grievances publicly.

10. **Think Before Sharing Images:** When sharing photos or images, consider whether they are appropriate for the group and if they align with the group's purpose.

11. **Avoid Sensitive Topics:** Forums are often meant to be positive and community-oriented. Avoid discussing sensitive topics like politics, religion, or controversial issues (including within the neighborhood) that could lead to heated debates and/or conflicts.

12. **Resolve Conflicts Privately:** If you have a disagreement with another member, handle it privately through direct messaging rather than airing it in the group.

13. **Be Patient:** Not everyone in the group will be online at the same time. Give people time to respond to your posts or comments.

14. **Use Emojis Thoughtfully:** Emojis can help convey tone, but use them thoughtfully. Avoid excessive use, as it can make your messages appear less professional.

15. **Report Inappropriate Content:** If you come across content that violates the group's rules or is inappropriate, report it to the administrator, rather than engaging with it.

If a post on any Couch Mountain forum does not reflect the above stated Community Forum Standards, the administrator of the forum(s) shall remove the post without notice. Continued misuse of the any forum could result in a member being blocked from the forum.