

Getting started in **tridd** forums

Welcome to tridd forums! These forums are a potentially powerful way for the East Texas gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community – and for the disenfranchised HIV/AIDS community -- to finally have a place to share ideas, stories, issues and advice with each other. Where we have historically been isolated and silent, we can now begin the process of joining the rest of the country in recognizing that there is power in our numbers. We are not alone... we are a community!

If you've used forums before, you may not need these instructions. The tridd forums interface is pretty straightforward and typical of other forums you may have seen.

If you're new to forums, however, this simple guide will get you up and running in seconds! It's easy and free and one of the best uses you can possibly make of your time!

Setting the tone

Before we get you signed up, let's take a moment to discuss the "spirit" with which these forums were created, and how you can be a valued member. Postings, like email, can be easily misunderstood. When you take away the visual cues we get during a typical conversation, such as smiles and laughter, some postings that were intended in good humor may be misunderstood as overly sarcastic... or down right "mean." Try to avoid this pitfall by posting with care for the feelings of others, and always assume comments from others were intended in the best possible way.

Still, since these are public forums, there may be times when folks who are down-right "hateful" make angry postings. Please rest assured that our moderators are working tirelessly to keep such anger and "hate speech" out of our forums.

If it happens, however, please keep the following ideas in mind.

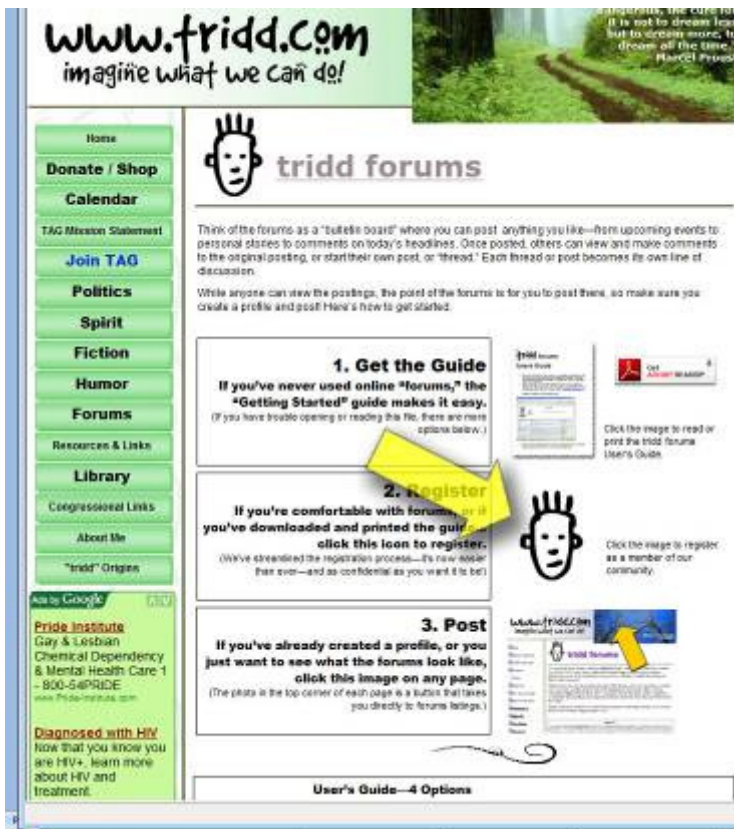
1. Be kind, be gentle and be respectful of others' opinions and feelings. We have enough of a struggle with those *outside* our community to waste time fighting among ourselves.
2. Never respond "in kind" to hateful language. If you respond at all (and it is often best not to), then try to approach the offensive language with love and understanding. When I was confronted once with such language aimed directly at me, I responded with this comment:
 - a. "To "simpleman," I can only say that I doubt your opinions will be changed here. Anytime someone tells me that the fundamental human right is to hate, and that the rights to exist peacefully are "special" rights that I'm trying to create... then I must recognize that your purpose here is

likely based on fear and a "disconnect" with a part of your own humanity. I can only suggest that you search your own heart for a kinder approach."

- b. Since I recognized that this person's opinions were unmovable regarding his "right to hate," there was no need for me to address his "arguments" point-by-point. Shortly after this exchange, the offending member was quietly removed from the forum by the moderator.
3. Having said that, our moderators are instructed to practice infinite patience. Their purpose is not to control the forums or overreach their "power" to remove members. We are allowed to disagree. We are allowed to argue, even as we are discouraged from being (or seeming) overtly hateful. There is a fine balance between an iron-fisted moderator (where no one feels comfortable posting) and chaos (where the wrong people take control). Your moderators are not rulers, but people who encourage "moderation" by providing a safe and comfortable atmosphere for the free flow of ideas.

Getting started (registration)

1. Registration is simple – just click the "Register" icon on the forums page of the tridd website (most likely the same page from which you downloaded this user's guide).



- This brings you to the user agreement. Please scan this information, then click the appropriate button at the bottom of the page.

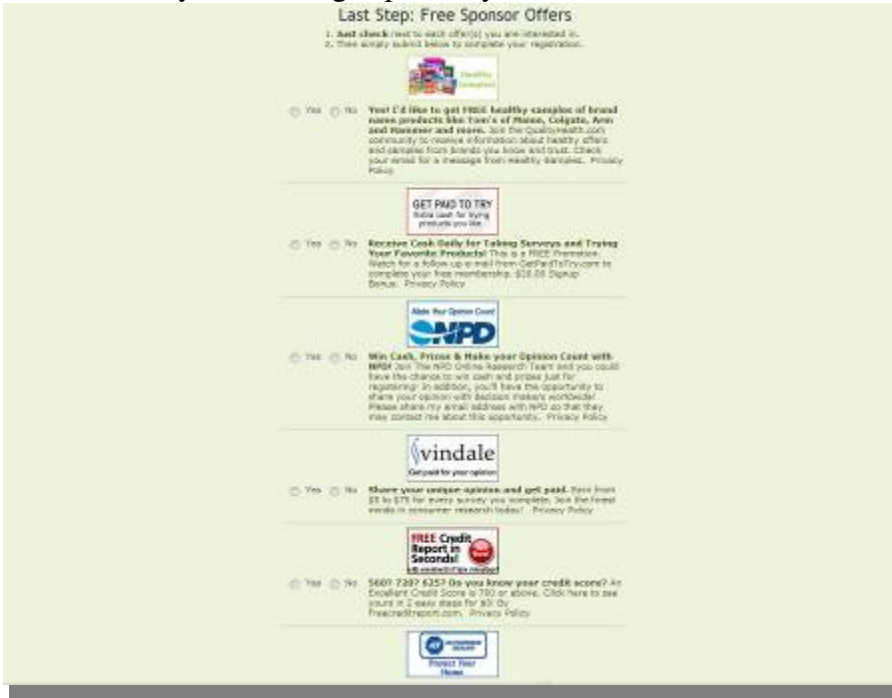


- This brings you to the registration form (see? You're almost done!) Pick any user name you like. Be as anonymous (or as "out") as you choose. **Just make sure you pick a username and a password you can remember.**

You must also enter a **valid** email address.



- Free Sponsor offers. Now you get a choice of offers from our sponsors. Please don't feel bad if you decide to select "no" on all these. If you're life me, you already have enough spam in your inbox.



- Congratulations! You're now a member of tridd forums!

If you've been invited to be a moderator, or are interested in being a moderator please send an email now to troy@tridd.com to notify me of your user name so I can set the appropriate permissions.

You'll find yourself at the forums portal, and you'll need to sign in using the username and password you just selected in step 3.



- Once you're signed in, you'll want to check out the forums. Click the "Board Index" link.



- Now you can choose a forum.



Using tridd forums

1. Now that you're a member, let's learn how to use the forums. First, let's look at the "forums shortcut." From any page on the tridd website, you can click the photo in the top right corner to go directly to the forums listings!

The screenshot shows the homepage of tridd.com. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a search box, a "Go" button, and links for "East Texas LGBT Links" and "Event Calendar". Below this is a banner for "project TAG" with a "Donate" button and a quote by Dane Rudhyar. A yellow arrow points from the "forums" icon in the right-hand column to the "FORUMS" button in the left-hand navigation menu. The left-hand menu includes links for Home, Donate / Shop, Calendar, TAG Mission Statement, Join TAG, Politics, Spirit, Fiction, Humor, Forums, Resources & Links, Library, Congressional Links, About Me, and "tridd" Origins. The main content area features a "Home" section with a "Calendar" link, an "Online application to Project TAG" form, a "JOIN FREE" button, and a "Read all about it!" section with links to "Dallas Voice" and "Project TAG on myspace". The right-hand column contains a "forums" section with a "CALENDAR" button and a list of news items under the heading "... on the web".

- This brings up the forums directory. You'll see a list of forums, divided into main categories (like "Instructions" and geographic areas). I'm assuming most of us are interested in the "East Texas Community" forums, which cover the Dallas area – all the way to the Louisiana border.

A great place to introduce yourself is the forum entitled "Hi! My Name Is..."
 Let's click on that forum now.

FORUM	TOPICS	POSTS	LAST POST
Instructions for Using Forums Please read this before posting. Moderators: enemysax, tcarlyle	2	3	by enemysax 12 13 Jan 2008 01:11 pm
No new posts			
General Interest Post anything of interest to you, more specific forums you'd like out of. I'm also looking for people interested in... Moderators: enemysax	150	511	by tcarlyle 12 03 Jul 2008 06:24 am
Hi! My Name Is... This is a great place to introduce yourself and tell us a little about who you are or what you believe in, etc. Moderators: enemysax, tcarlyle, Rhonda	33	173	by enemysax 12 11 Dec 2008 07:01 pm
Project TAG Tyler's first-ever community Center serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and straight ally community. Project TAG is Tyler Area Gays Moderators: Rhonda	46	70	by ody29 12 30 Jun 2008 07:38 pm
PFLAG - East Texas PFLAG This forum, administered by East Texas PFLAG officials and members, is for anything PFLAG-related, from the Dallas Pride Parade to events to "coming out" stories and issues. Moderators: tcarlyle, Rhonda	49	91	by tcarlyle 12 01 Jun 2008 04:18 pm
Activism Keep informed with what's going on. Join an action, or start one of your own! We are only granted the basic human rights we're able to carve out for ourselves! Human rights topics include both HIV and GLBT issues, which are often interrelated. Moderators: enemysax, tcarlyle	195	545	by tcarlyle 12 16 Jun 2008 01:48 pm
Swap Shop This is a place to buy and sell anything you like. Also can be used to find roommates. This is intended as a free service for our community. Thread is not responsible for unhappy sales or purchase experiences! - Best of luck! Moderators: enemysax, tcarlyle	1	1	by tcarlyle 12 30 Aug 2008 10:58 am
Creativity - Poetry & Stories A place to share your creative work, or to share the work of other creative people in the community. Moderators: Rhonda	77	265	by tcarlyle 12 13 Mar 2008 04:12 am

- Viewing a posting. Before we make our first post, let's take a look at someone else's posting. Click on the post entitled "Hi - I'm Troy."

POST	TOPICS	POSTS	LAST POST
by Steve Cantrell 12 30 Sep 2007 09:47 am	0	35	30 Sep 2007 09:47 am
Renee by Renee 12 16 Jun 2007 03:55 pm	3	74	by Steve Cantrell 12 16 Sep 2007 10:56 am
Hi, my name is..... by gery 12 11 Aug 2007 05:44 pm	2	45	by Steve Cantrell 12 15 Sep 2007 05:26 pm
Hi I'm Richard by dkrshard 12 11 Sep 2007 09:17 pm	5	58	by Tam 12 12 Sep 2007 12:10 pm
Uad Day Diahzzzz by Steve Cantrell 12 07 Sep 2007 11:02 am	2	48	by Steve Cantrell 12 07 Sep 2007 03:17 pm
A happy disposition by Steve Cantrell 12 05 Sep 2007 08:03 am	3	68	by Steve Cantrell 12 07 Sep 2007 08:12 am
Hi! My Name is Rhonda by Rhonda 12 07 Sep 2007 00:39 am	1	42	by Rhonda 12 17 Jun 2007 09:44 pm
Hi! My Name is Roger by CASPER 12 07 Sep 2007 08:16 pm	1	37	by tcarlyle 12 07 Sep 2007 04:20 am
Hi, my name is Jane by Cat Lover 12 01 Jun 2007 01:26 pm	0	35	by Cat Lover 12 01 Jun 2007 01:26 pm
Hi - I'm Troy by tcarlyle 12 25 May 2007 00:04 am	0	54	by tcarlyle 12 25 May 2007 06:04 am

Display topics from previous: Sort by

NEW TOPIC

Mark topics read • 33 topics • Page 1 of 1

4. Now you can read the post. Often, there will be many answers to the original post – this is called a “thread,” and you’ll be able to scroll down to view replies and replies to those replies, etc. If the person who made the original post picked “Notify me of replies” in his or her profile, he or she will get a friendly email reminder to check forums whenever a reply is made.

You can post a reply by clicking the “Post Reply” button, as shown. For now, however, let’s go back to the main forum so you can introduce yourself (rather than replying to someone else’s introduction. Click the “Hello, My Name Is...” link, at the top of the page.



7. When you're finished editing, just scroll down and hit the "Submit" button. Your post has been created!



8. Select "View my Post," and you'll be able to see what everyone else can see. If you'd like to make changes, just hit the "Edit" button as shown.

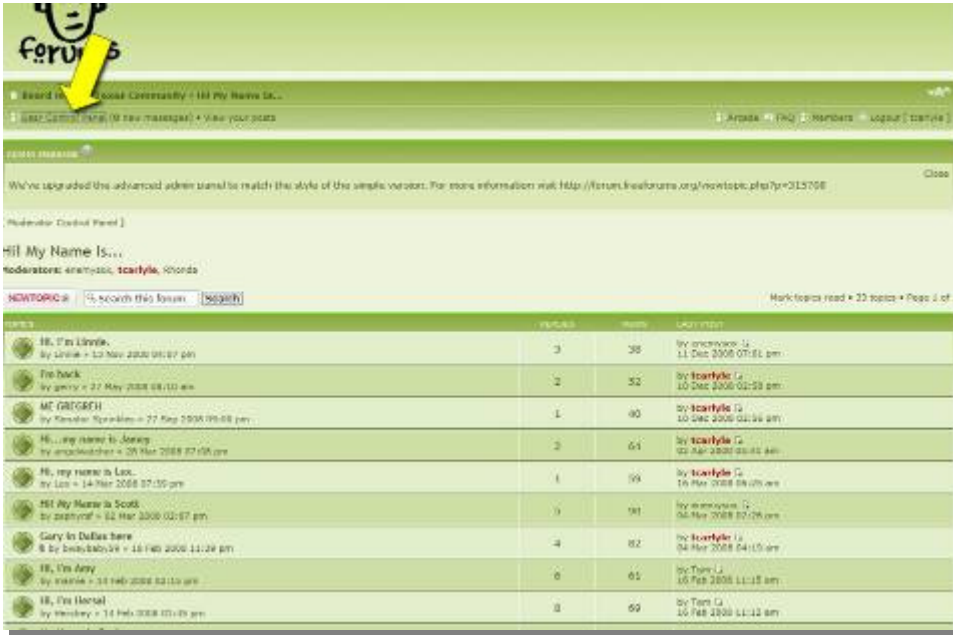
Congratulations! You've just created your first posting!



Editing your profile

Editing your profile is easy! You can change your password, email address, privacy settings, personal avatar, and many other options from any forums page

by clicking the “User Control Panel. Obviously, you must be signed in to edit your profile.



In the User Control Panel, you can manage your email preferences, upload a personal photo or avatar, subscribe to forums, manage your draft posts, and much, much more. Take some time to explore this powerful tool.



tridd toolbar

I'd recommend trying the tridd toolbar. It puts a thin strip at the top of your browser that shows you a quick rundown on what's going on in the forums. It also provides lightning fast forums access, and even has a nifty radio that keeps the music going no matter where you're browsing (I really like that feature!).

The tridd toolbar installs easily – and if you change your mind later (and you won't), it comes with a thorough and simple uninstall feature. So give it a try! You'll find the link at the top of the tridd homepage.

The screenshot shows the tridd website homepage. At the top, there is a blue banner for "Download Our Toolbar" with a search bar and navigation links for "East Texas LGBT Links" and "Event Calendar". A yellow arrow points to the toolbar area. Below the banner is the website logo "www.tridd.com" with the tagline "imagine what you can do!" and "a completely, totally, and absolutely FREE service". To the right, there is a "project TAG" banner with a "Donate" button and a quote by Dane Rudhyar: "Man can only become what he is able to consciously imagine." Below the logo is a vertical navigation menu with buttons for Home, Donate / Shop, Calendar, TAG Mission Statement, Join TAG, Politics, Spirit, Fiction, Humor, Forums, and Resources & Links. The main content area features a "Home" section with a blue button that says "Everything you need is in the Calendar". To the right of this is a statistics box: "Last Updated: July 2, 2009", "Website created: May 14, 2007", "Hits Since Creation: 357,271 - Visitors since creation: 45,142", "Pages Main: 62 - [Album](#) Pages: 33 - Topics: 757", "Posts: 2,2379 - Registered Users: 107". Below the statistics is a colorful banner for "Online application to Project TAG: Tell us your interests & subscribe to the TAG newsletter. Apply here - it's free & confidential!". To the right of this is a "forums" section with a calendar icon and the text "Start connecting now! Click the icon above to go to [tridd forums](#)." Below the forums section is a "Gates: Can military ban be selectively enforced?" article snippet with the date "Published July 1 30, 2009". At the bottom left, there is a "project TAG JOIN FREE" banner with the text "Read all about it! Project TAG makes the front page of the Dallas".

Congratulations! I hope you've found this guide useful. If you have any suggestions for improvement or ideas for new forums, please let me know.

Best wishes, and happy posting!
Peace & love, Troy

troy@tridd.com