

WHERE TO LOOK FOR A LESBIAN/GAY MATE

Searching for a mate can be a difficult process for lesbians and gays. Before starting your search, you must honestly evaluate what kind of mate you are looking for & whether you are genuinely ready for a relationship. If you're ready & you have an idea of what kind of mate you're seeking, then it's a matter of considering where to look. Traditionally, gays & lesbians have been limited to searching for partners in bars/clubs, personal ads, & dating services. However, if you look around there are actually many more places to consider meeting someone for a relationship. Consider some of the following possibilities:

Live your life mindfully aware

- pay attention to whom you interact with during the course of normal activities of your life
- notice opportunities to make friends and/or network with people

Don't overlook the little things in life

- remember that people sometimes make connections in mundane situations or concerning mundane matters

Think of your interests, leisure activities, and hobbies that you normally do at home, and get out of the house and do them. For example, if you like to read or write, go to bookstores, libraries, and coffee shops. If you're interested in physical activities, go to the gym, join sports teams, and participate in outdoor community clubs. If you're into the arts, go to art galleries, movies, and the theatre. This way, you'll meet similar others and it'll be easier to make conversations.

Be mindful of opportunities to meet people and network thru a student or professional organization – via conferences, classes, special events, membership/committee activities

Attend program activities thru a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgender Community Center

Join a Gay or Lesbian club or organization

If there is not a club or organization that addresses an activity or area of your interest, consider starting one.

Join an organization, church, or special events club that allows you to network with other people who are open-minded to gays and lesbians or that provide opportunities for contact with gays and lesbians

Volunteer for a worthy cause or event

Participate in a political event – e.g., attend a march or rally, work on a political election campaign, join a political cause

Place and read classified ads.

Spend time at a local “watering hole” that is a gathering place for diverse people – e.g., a coffee house, ice cream shop, bar, park, etc.

Develop a strong network of friends and tell them that you're interested in finding someone. Network with friends of friends - plan special events or gatherings at your home and invite friends, then encourage them to bring another friend.

Join online e-mail networks, chat rooms, or singles activities

Plan a trip with a gay or lesbian travel sponsor

Attend a gay or lesbian event/holiday in another city that has a large gay or lesbian population

Be creative – can you think of other ideas to expand this list....

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