

# The Practitioner's Online Community Membership Lifecycle

	Visitor	Newcomer	Regular	Senior	Volunteer
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visits, browses, clicks to register, opens e-mail, clicks confirmation link.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visits and participates sporadically.</li> <li>• Responds to existing discussions.</li> <li>• Receives and clicks on notifications.</li> <li>• Explores the community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visits daily, participates weekly, refers others/shares content, initiates activity and discussions, contributes content.</li> <li>• Resists change.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visits daily/weekly, contributes weekly/monthly, shares and refers, writes guest content, reminds members of community norms and values.</li> <li>• Highly resistant to change.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visits daily, organizes events/activities, moderates, contributes content, participates in community decisions.</li> <li>• Shares and refers.</li> <li>• Eager to initiate change.</li> </ul>
Time in community	0 - 15 minutes	0 to 6 months	6 months to 2 years	2 - 30+ years*	3 months to 30+ years*
Member Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informational. Single-issue resolution.</li> <li>• Resolve curiosity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informational/socialization.</li> <li>• Instant reciprocity &amp; gratification.</li> <li>• Acceptance into the group.</li> <li>• Evidence of increasing influence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-validation, self-esteem, efficacy, sense of belonging.</li> <li>• Build and maintain a positive reputation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition of senior status.</li> <li>• Influence and ownership over the group identity.</li> <li>• Strong sense of belonging and affiliation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Influence/efficacy, ownership, achievement, recognition, improved career prospects.</li> </ul>
Sense of community	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited.</li> <li>• Learning group history, values, and norms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium to strong.</li> <li>• Increasingly familiarity with other members, in-jokes, community norms, and references to community history.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong sense of belonging and group identity.</li> <li>• Strong familiarity with many other members.</li> <li>• Full understanding and enforcement of community &amp; identity norms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong sense of community and identification with the group.</li> <li>• Strong desire to impress the group and receive recognition.</li> </ul>
Language	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High use of personal pronouns, polite language.</li> <li>• Reluctant to criticize other members/ideas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Declining use of singular personal pronouns (as % of total posts).</li> <li>• Direct language. Willingness to disagree.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decreasing use of new community language.</li> <li>• Unrestrained opinions.</li> <li>• Direct, but in-line with community tone of voice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embraces admin language.</li> <li>• More official.</li> <li>• Less willing to engage in confrontation.</li> </ul>
CMGR Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solicit first, active, contribution in a self-disclosure-based discussion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guide to habitual participation.</li> <li>• Socialize with other members.</li> <li>• Solicit time, energy, and emotional investments.</li> <li>• Showcase initial influence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prick the ego.</li> <li>• Provide increasing levels of recognition, power, and influence.</li> <li>• Foster a strong sense of community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop insider status.</li> <li>• Provide sense of ownership and leadership status within the community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Showcase unique contributions and feedback on their community impact.</li> <li>• Providing increasing scale of power.</li> <li>• Ensure recruitment of future volunteers.</li> </ul>

\* Using the internet's oldest communities (30 years)