

“Participants must move to New Hampshire (NH) once they sign up for the Free State Project (FSP).”

When you sign up as a participant of the FSP, you choose when you would like to move to NH. The standard commitment is to move within 5 years of the project reaching 20,000 participants. When you sign up however, you can specify the year, the number of participants required, or an event that would trigger your move. For details, go to www.FreeStateProject.org/join.

“NH is too cold.”

NH experiences all four seasons but does have longer, colder, and more snow-filled winters than other regions of the country. In the summer, it can regularly reach over 90°F and in the winter it can regularly be below 20°F. Fortunately, in NH, heating is inexpensive and abundant, roads are cleared quickly and effectively, winter recreation activities abound, and most parking lots and office buildings are designed to limit the need to be in the cold. Indeed, many Free Staters who have moved from warmer states report their habits being more of the same. Instead of regularly running from air-conditioned homes, cars, and workplaces, they run from heated homes to heated cars to heated workplaces. NH winters will take some getting used to, but it is a small price to pay for increased liberty and a small sacrifice in comparison to what others have given to secure the blessings of liberty for themselves and future generations.

“I have friends and family where I currently live.”

The potential distance of NH from friends, and especially family, can be a serious drawback. Fortunately, modern communication technologies allow people to inexpensively talk via text, voice, and/or video with people anywhere in the world and transportation to and from NH by bus, plane, or car is easy and inexpensive (you can use your tax savings to buy their tickets). By moving, you will also be making many new friends in the FSP community and the general NH population. If you can't bring your friends and family with you to NH, there are plenty of ways to maintain your relationship from NH.

“NH natives don't like out-of-staters and/or the FSP.”

No one likes other people telling them what to do. As such, there was some initial skepticism and hostility from NH natives about the FSP. However, once people understood that participants are moving to preserve and promote more freedom, that we understand the NH motto of “Live Free or Die”, and that we are active, productive, and friendly members of communities, that hostility and skepticism turned into friendship and optimism that “reinforcements have arrived.”

“The FSP is a secessionist movement.”

The FSP is not a secessionist movement. It is simply an organization dedicated to the movement of 20,000 pro-liberty activists to NH. There is no political litmus test other than agreeing that the maximum role of government is the protection of life, liberty, and property. If you do support secession you are still welcome to become a participant and work towards that with other like minded activists, but realize that this is not a goal or priority of the FSP.

“The FSP is a political organization with a campaign and a platform.”

The FSP is a non-profit organization dedicated to facilitating the movement of 20,000 pro-liberty activists to NH. The FSP does not have a political platform nor an agenda for what participants must do. Instead, each participant chooses the issue(s) to focus on, the tactics to use, and the people to work with. This freedom has resulted in a dynamic and successful community of activists.

“But we're making progress where I live.”

The FSP is glad to hear whenever and wherever advances in liberty are being made. The question is how far and how fast is more freedom being achieved? We only have so much time to live and make a difference. The sad fact is that the political environment and critical mass of activists needed to realize political change simply does not exist in any other state. NH's culture already leans in a pro-liberty direction, the institutions and activist networks are in place, and the state is small enough that fewer people are needed to make a difference. In NH, you will still have to work hard, but you will also be able to win.

“The FSP wants to ‘take over’ NH.”

The FSP is neither a violent rebellion nor antagonistic towards the native population. Those who have moved to NH with the FSP have been active, influential, upstanding, and integrated members of their community. There is no political party or platform attempting to be forced upon the state. The goal is to peacefully and democratically make NH better and freer and those who have moved have reflected this goal.

“I have a good job where I currently live.”

It's definitely tough to leave a good job, especially in these economic times. However, there are also many good jobs in NH, where the economy is diverse, high-tech jobs are prominent, unemployment is low, entrepreneurs/small businesses are encouraged, and you keep more of your paycheck after taxes. Alternatively, many companies are amenable to telecommuting or have offices in NH or its surrounding states. If the FSP is attractive to you, there are ways to continue your career while still achieving liberty in your lifetime in NH.

“By concentrating in one state, we'd become an easy target.”

Anyone who is active in public life, especially politics, makes themselves a target for smears, attacks, and opposition, especially as they are successful and a threat to entrenched interests. Love of liberty must trump fear if progress is to be made. Fortunately, by being part of a large community that can support, protect, and back each other up, both individuals and the group as a whole have greater safety and protection.

“I have a mortgage where I currently live.”

If your house is keeping you from moving, all we can suggest is starting the process of selling or renting it and looking for housing in NH. The sooner you start, the sooner you can move. While we can't offer much help to you locally, on the NH end, if you email info@freestateproject.org we can recommend FSP friendly Realtors and if you visit PorcManor.com you can see a listing of places to rent. Your house is certainly an obstacle, but it is not insurmountable.

“I have kids in school.”

NH and the FSP community is family friendly and does not take lightly the ordeal of finding a new school and/or uprooting kids. If you are happy with your child's school and the environment they are growing up in, we respect this and simply ask that you consider moving when they have graduated. If you are not satisfied however, please know that NH is the 7th best state in the country to raise kids and offers a wide selection of quality schooling options, from home-school networks to Montessori schools to good public schools. You might just find both a better school and more freedom in NH.

“I'd like to move, but my significant other is reluctant.”

If his/her reluctance hasn't been addressed by this pamphlet, the most effective way to improve another person's willingness to move is for them to actually visit NH and experience the FSP community. You are welcome to visit whenever works for you, just let us know you are coming so we can help you make the most of your time. To do this, please go to FreeStateProject.org/visithn.

“FSP Participants all live in and/or are expected to move to the same area of NH.”

When you move to NH, you choose wherever you would like to live in the state. FSP participants are located throughout NH, but certain areas have attracted more than others for geographic, political, and personal reasons. Nashua, Manchester, and Concord are city centers and have attracted those interested in electoral politics; Keene is a rural city and home to many civil disobedience activists; the Lakes Region and Seacoast is comprised of many small towns with beautiful surroundings and has attracted many families; and the north of the state offers large, mountainside plots of land for those looking to be away from civilization. NH is a diverse state that offers many great locations to settle down and you are free to choose wherever is right for you. The trouble is picking just one.

“Why bother? The system is corrupt and/or doomed. There’s no guarantee this project will be a success.”

It’s easy and sensible to be pessimistic. The government continues to grow, the country complains but continues to vote for big government candidates, and the consequences of government intervention and poor decisions by individuals are being witnessed in all facets of society. Futility and sadness however are no way to live one’s life. The FSP is a bastion of hope, optimism and success. We are securing and promoting liberty in NH. We are having fun and building a strong community while changing the world. We are achieving liberty in our lifetime. You can be a part of this. Join us in NH. You won’t regret it.

“The FSP is only intended for Libertarians.”

The FSP is for all pro-liberty activists. Participants in the project range from classical liberals, to anarcho-capitalists, to libertarians, to constitutionalists, and a slew of other labels. What we care about is that you 1) agree that the maximum role of government is the protection of life, liberty, and property 2) will move to NH and 3) will be active there towards the achievement of such a government. If you care about liberty, the FSP is intended for you.

“Are you guys actually serious about this?”

Yes, the FSP is not a joke, simply an interesting idea, or an online community. Real people are really moving and making real progress for liberty. Over 9,000 people are participants and over 650 have moved as of January, 2008. Four participants were elected to the NH state house in 2008; anti-liberty legislation has been defeated like Real-ID, mandatory seat belt laws for adults, and numerous tax increases; and pro-liberty legislation has been passed like spending caps, eminent domain safeguards, and gun rights protections. Pro-liberty internet, television, and radio shows, as well as newspapers have been formed and positive coverage in existing media has been received. If you’d like to see how real it is for yourself, plan a visit at FreeStateProject.org/visithh.

“NH consists of rich WASPs and crazy mountain men and FSP participants are either gun toting loonies, paranoid conspiracy theorists, angry white men or all of the above.”

NH and the FSP have been subject to some unflattering stereotypes. While there is some truth to them, the facts are these. NH’s population is one of the least diverse states in the country, but people of most backgrounds, incomes, and persuasions live there. FSP participants are a diverse group of all ages, races, genders, religions, sexual orientations, pro-liberty philosophies, etc. Some choose to open or conceal carry firearms while others don’t even own a gun; some live in the sticks while others live in downtown condos; some distrust the “official story” while others don’t care; some simply want smaller government while others emotionally despise it. The main exclusion that the FSP does make is that “anyone who promotes violence, racial hatred, or bigotry is not welcome.” NH residents and FSP participants are generally fun, happy, open-minded, sensible individuals. You’ll like us.

“NH is being taken over by Massachusetts big-government liberal migration.”

A University of NH study has found that nearly 80,000 people have moved from Boston to NH between 2001 and 2005, matching the national average for state population gain. These movers are attracted by NH’s lower taxes, lower cost of living, safer communities, less expensive, more scenic homes, and that there are “too many liberals in Massachusetts.” It is a concern that these new residents bring with them big government philosophies, but the Wall Street Journal reports these new residents tend to be more fiscally conservative, wanting to maintain the aforementioned qualities of NH that led them to move. As such, the influx into the state is not a negative, but a positive for the FSP. Nonetheless, if NH’s status as the freest state in the country is to be maintained and strengthened, more pro-liberty activists like yourself are needed.

“The FSP will never reach its goal of 20,000 participants.”

The FSP has recruited over 9,000 participants and averages about 20 sign-ups per week. While we regularly wish that our numbers grew faster and that we were more effective with our shoestring budget and all-volunteer organization, there is no doubt that the 20,000 participant goal will be reached. Hundreds of thousands of pro-liberty activists have yet to even hear about the FSP, decades of failure of national election campaigns and policy think tanks to achieve smaller government is becoming apparent, and NH successes are getting increased attention. The FSP is an idea whose time has come.

“FSP participants don’t care what happens to the rest of the country or the world.”

On the contrary, it is because we care that the FSP is so important. America’s status and example as the freest nation in the world is diminishing. It is time that federalism is reasserted. By making NH a sanctuary and model of a society based on respect for individual rights, personal responsibility, and limited government, not only will there be a home for those that want to live in such a society, but the rest of the country and the world can learn from its example.

“If NH is so pro-liberty, why did Ron Paul lose there, while Obama and NH Democrats won?”

NH is neither perfect nor immune from the trends of the country. If it were, there would be no need for this project. But let us be clear about some things. First, Ron Paul had his highest early primary vote in NH and is a supporter of the FSP. Second, every state went for big-government McObama and no third party candidate seriously campaigned in NH. Third, NH is a state where even Democrats favor balanced budgets, low taxes, and limited government. National elections are important, but imagine what would be possible if instead of hoping for a miracle, that pro-liberty money and energy were focused on winnable NH state and congressional elections.



Responses to Misconceptions and Objections

The Free State Project (FSP) seeks 20,000 pro-liberty activists willing to move to New Hampshire, where they will exert the fullest practical effort toward the creation of a society in which the maximum role of government is the protection of life, liberty, and property.

This brochure addresses some of the common misconceptions and objections surrounding the FSP.

FREE STATE PROJECT
Liberty in Our Lifetime

www.freestateproject.org