



# The “Newbie NP” Masterclass

## BUILD YOUR NP NETWORK



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### INTRODUCTION

For nurse practitioners, building a professional network may seem insignificant. THAT IS WRONG. Building a professional network is a major key in advancing in your profession. The next time you are looking for a job, expanding your career/education aspirations, it may indeed be your network that opens doors for you. Let us discuss ways to build a professional network!



## 1. Create a professional profile on a networking site:

Social networking is the new law of the land. If you are one that already enjoys sparing a few minutes on social media, you might as well choose a platform that will advance your professional career. By doing so, you have the ability to grow your connections from a simple touch of a phone.

**LinkedIn** is a popular site amongst professionals from every field, and allows you to specify a specific field; such as 'healthcare' or 'nurse practitioners.'

Additional professional networking sites:

1. Meetup
2. Xing
3. Bark
4. Opportunity
5. Jobcase
6. Lunchmeet
7. Reddit
8. Facebook Groups/Twitter Threads

## 2. Attend Conferences and Trainings:

What better way to entertain a new city and obtain CME credits! Also consider these events as an excellent networking opportunity. Face to face interactions are far better as you get a chance to flex your personality and build relationships.

Do not introduce yourself to every nurse practitioner at a conference. The idea is quality over quantity. Get to know a handful of NPs during meals and downtimes.



Engage in informal conversations about their speciality and minimal detailed personal information. If the vibe is right, ask him/her for a business card, email, or social media handle; i.e., Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, etc.

### **3. Join an Association:**

Join the local chapter for your state's NP Association or an association aligned with your speciality. This is another way to get to know other advanced practice providers in your area that may share your similar interests/passions as you.

Also, an association provides up to date information regarding what is going on in your field. You want to stay in the know of how your field is evolving; such as, average salaries, laws regarding practicing.

Outside of my state's associations, I enjoyed groups such as Medscape and Healthgrades as they provide medical journal articles that are up to date and trending.

### **4. Engage with your co-workers:**

Do not forget the folks that are right in front of you at the workplace. Whether it is fellow NPs, MDs, or RNs, make a point to have conversations and cultivate relationships with them. They will become vital in your professional circle. For example, the Medical Director at my current job is who I chose to be my mentor in my Doctoral Program. He has become a key part in my professional and educational advancement.

You do not have to be too personal with your co-workers or hitting happy hours every day, but do not forget to have interactions with them regularly. It is connections like these that may push for your name to be entered in conversations that will open new opportunities.

So yes, networking is about making connections and supporting other nurse practitioners as well.