



Beyond the Records: Capturing Family Stories with the FamilySearch Together App

Char Mitts

cjgenealogy@gmail.com

This class introduces the FamilySearch Together app and explores how it helps families and genealogists preserve living stories alongside traditional records. Adults and youth connect with parents, grandparents, and other relatives through interactive activities and games. Participants can earn points while completing activities and can compete within their family group, making family history engaging and fun.



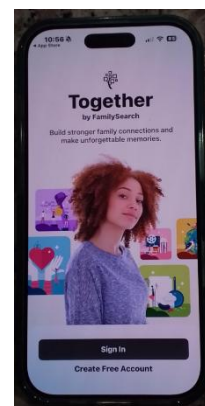
During this class you will learn how the app encourages storytelling, strengthens family relationships, and supports genealogy by capturing oral histories. The app is designed for all audiences and highlights practical ways to enrich family history work.

What is the Together App?

FamilySearch built a social/interactive app alongside the traditional Family Tree and Memories apps. It is meant to transition from researching the dead to connecting the living, using a private, secure social platform. You can access it on multiple devices:

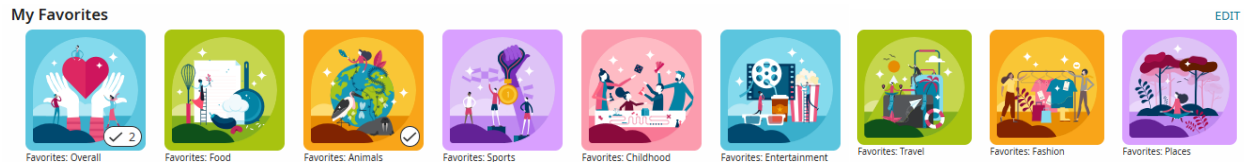
Accessing the App

- On Desktop: Log into FamilySearch.org, click on the Activities tab at the top of the page, and select Together.
- On Mobile Device: Search for "Together by FamilySearch" in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.



Account Requirements:

- *Adults & Teens (13+)*: Need a standard, free FamilySearch account.
- *Children (Ages 8–12)*: Parents can create a restricted child account via their own FamilySearch settings.
- *Children (Under 8)*: Can participate using a parent's device by creating a custom avatar.



The Together app encourages you to micro-journal by asking bit-sized questions, such as “What is your favorite childhood food?” This allows you to create a history of yourself in small bits of time. In the course of a month, a year, or more, you can start your living history of your family life.

It gathers these memories and stories by typing, by voice note, or a photo prompt them instantly syncs, and automatically archives to the backend of FamilySearch Memories. If a post is later removed from the social group feed, the original file stays safely preserved in your private Memories gallery.

The subjects are organized into sections:

Stories Section

My Favorites: Overall, Food, Animals, Sports, Childhood, Entertainment, Travel, Fashion, Places

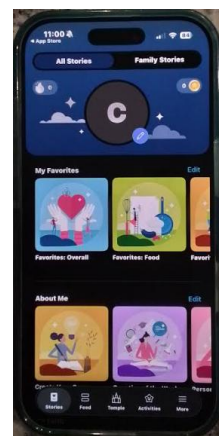
About Me: Create Your Own, Question of the Week, Personal Journal, Life Highlights, Hobbies, Talents, My Friends, My Heroes, Education, Life Goals, Dream Encounter, Future Me, Worklife, Festive Moments, My Name, Military Service, Holiday Ranking

My Faith: Spiritually Defining Moments, Gratitude Journal, My Baptism & Confirmation, My Mission, My Testimony, Favorite Stories about Jesus Christ, Missionary Experiences, Temple and Family History Memories, My Favorite Scriptures, Scripture Heroes, My Church Talks, General Conference Reflection, My Spiritual Gifts

Deceased Family: Those that are listed in FamilySearch starting with the closest family member

Living Family: My spouse, My Parents, My Children, My Grandparents, My Siblings, My Grandchildren

My Family Stories: Family Vacations, Holiday Memories, Food We Love, Family Recipes, Family Traditions,



Activities

- Avatar My Family
- All About Me,
- Compare-a-Face,
- Famous Relatives,
- Where Am I From?
- Record My Story,
- Picture My Heritage,
- Temple Opportunities,
- New Memories,
- Ancestor Calendar,
- Cemetery Search,
- Record Hints,
- Ordinances for Families in Your Tree,
- 2025 Year in Review,
- Ancestor Occupations,
- Ancestor Photo Challenge,
- Family Tree Keepsakes,
- Global Record Hints,
- Look-Alikes,
- Mayflower Ancestors,
- Military ancestors,
- Military Records,
- Missing Temple Information,
- Missionary Ancestors,
- My Match,
- Nauvoo ancestors,
- Photo Collage Creator,
- Pioneer Ancestors,
- Religious Records,
- Top Contributors,
- Your Family Tree Statistics

 **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint Integration:**
Tapping the integrated Temple Icon opens a portal directly to *Ordinance Ready*, allowing users to find family names, manage reservations, and log personal temple journal entries on the go.

Start a Family Group



How to Create a Private Family Group

Previously, living people on FamilySearch were completely private and invisible to other users. With the Family Group Tree feature enabled, group members can now co-manage and enrich the profiles of *living* family members together without creating messy duplicate records.

Family Groups act as "secure rooms" where your family's feed is completely private and hidden from the public. Pitch it to





teenagers and busy parents as a private, ad-free alternative to mainstream social media where the family can safely stay in touch. 4As family members add content to the Together app they can earn points and badges for answering prompts and creating avatars. This can drive friendly competition that gets grandkids actively logging data.

The voice-to-text input allows users to tap the microphone icon on their phone keyboard to talk naturally. This can be perfect for older relatives who struggle typing on mobile screens. Or ask grandparents or elderly aunts/uncles to answer just *one* prompt a week using the voice-to-text feature. Tech-savvy grandkids can also compete for points by interviewing older relatives and inputting the answers.



Step-by-Step Setup:

1. Log into FamilySearch.org.
2. Click your Profile Name / Icon in the top right corner.
3. Select Family Groups from the dropdown menu.
4. Click the blue Create Group button.
5. Name your group (e.g., "*The Smith Grandkids & Cousins*"), upload a family photo, and add a brief description.
6. Crucial Step: Check the box that says "*Allow this group to work together in a family group tree.*" This allows you to collectively view and update living relatives in a shared space.
7. Click Create.
8. Click Invite Members to copy a private link. Send this link to your relatives via text, email, or group chat. You will approve them when they click it.

You can belong to up to 10 distinct groups.



Your First Assignment:

Download the Together app this weekend, create your first Family Group, and invite at least two relatives. Kick things off by answering the "My Favorites" prompt together!