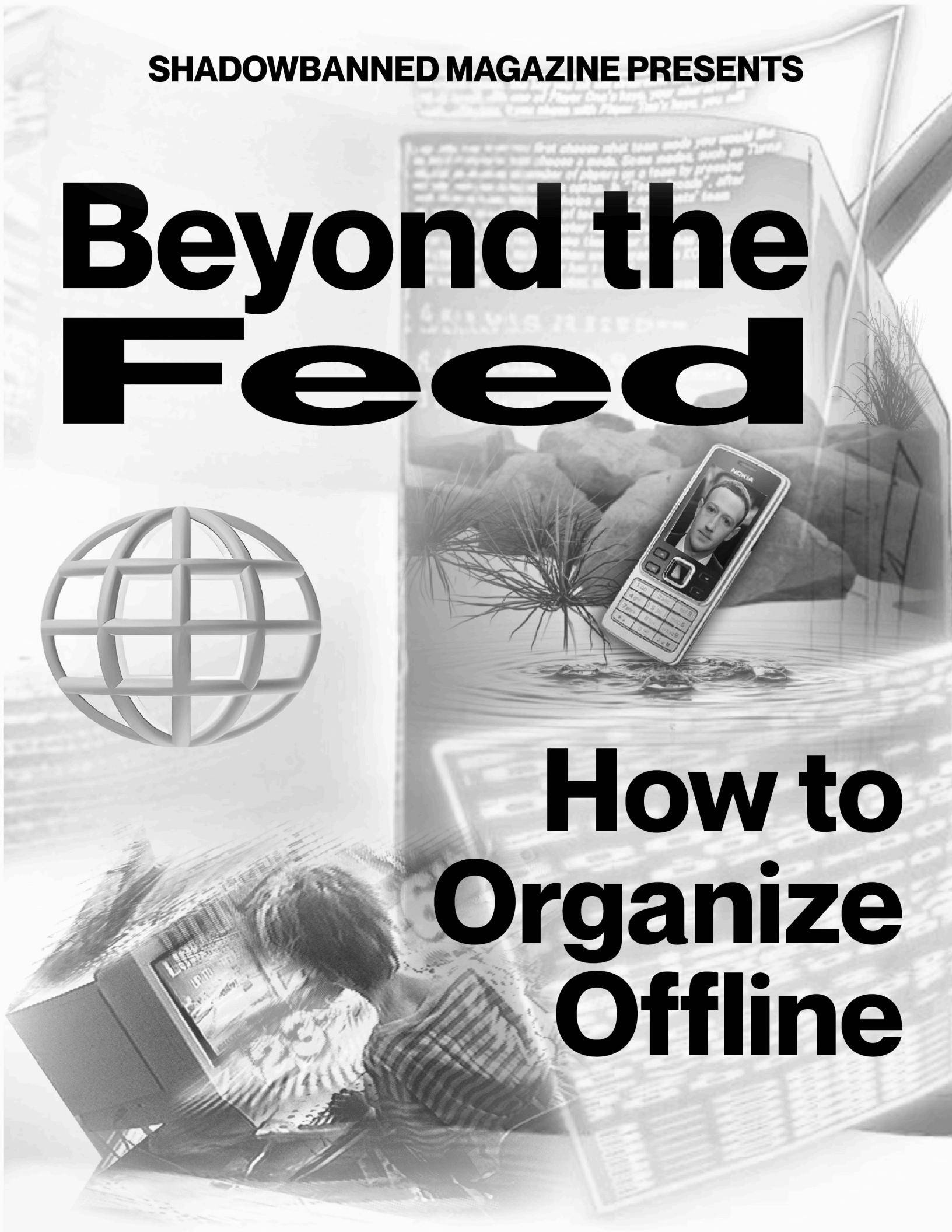
SHADOWBANNED MAGAZINE PRESENTS

Beyond the Feed



How to Organize Offline

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Communication	2
Documentation + Information	4
Logistics and Resources	7
Security + Safety	8
Offline Infrastructure & Continuity	9
Mutual Aid Pods Map Worksheet	10
Emergency Contact Page Template	14
About Shadowbanned Magazine	15

Introduction: Why Organize Offline?

Digital tools are powerful, but they are also monitored, monetized, and fragile. Every message leaves a trace. Platforms can disappear overnight, accounts can be suspended, and networks can be shut down at the flick of a switch. In moments of unrest or crisis, those who depend entirely on the internet often find themselves cut off, isolated, or easily targeted.

Offline organizing builds resilience. It keeps communities connected and capable when digital systems fail or become unsafe. By creating physical networks of communication, care, and documentation, we protect what matters most: each other.

This manual offers practical steps, tools, and strategies to stay linked, share resources, and sustain movements without relying on corporate platforms or vulnerable technology.

Communication

Why it matters: Without reliable communication, groups scatter, panic spreads, and misinformation takes over. Building redundant ways to talk and check in prevents isolation.

Emergency Contact Book

What: A small, durable, waterproof notebook with essential phone numbers, addresses, and emails.

Why: Phones can be lost, broken, seized, or simply run out of battery. Digital contacts vanish instantly if you're locked out of accounts.

How???

- Use waterproof paper or laminate pages.
- Include at least: close allies, group liaisons, legal hotlines, medical providers, safe meeting points, and out-of-town contacts.
- Store one copy at home and one in your go-bag.
- Encourage everyone in your group to carry their own.

Phone Trees

What: A branching system where each person is responsible for contacting 2–3 others.

Why: Urgent information spreads much faster and doesn't rely on one central caller. Redundancy ensures messages still move if one person can't be reached.

How???

- Print out the tree with names and numbers.
- Test it periodically to make sure it works in practice.
- Keep it short and direct: who calls who, in what order, for what types of information.
- Pair this with a written "signal plan" (e.g., a phrase everyone knows means "meet immediately at the safe point").

CB Radios / Walkie-Talkies

Cheap, don't rely on cell towers, can coordinate locally.

Burner Phones

Why: Privacy and separation. If a burner is taken, your personal data and contacts remain protected.

What: Cash-only, prepaid phones purchased for group use.

How???

- Buy with cash only, never with ID or linked accounts.
- Rotate phones and numbers regularly.
- Keep turned off when not in use (removes tracking risk).
- Use only for designated purposes (organizing, emergencies).

Tip: Treat burners as disposable tools, not personal devices.

Safety Meeting Points

What: Pre-arranged physical spaces where your group can regroup if digital comms fail.

Why: In emergencies, wandering or waiting for messages can be dangerous. Meeting points prevent scattering.

How???

- Pick 2–3 spots: one primary, one backup, one out-of-neighborhood.
- Review them regularly with your group.
- Mark them on printed maps.
- Consider both indoor (libraries, community centers, trusted homes) and outdoor (parks, landmarks) options.
- Make sure they are accessible by foot if transit fails.

Documentation & Information

Why it matters: A movement is only as strong as the information it shares. Offline tools keep knowledge alive beyond apps and servers.

Mutual Aid Pod Maps (see page 10 for template)

Why: Pod Mapping helps organize mutual aid by showing who in your network can provide support and what you can contribute in return

What: A paper map with local resources marked.

How??? Update monthly. Make multiple copies across pods

Analog Calendars & Planners

Why: Protection from surveillance, and tracking.

What: Paper calendars, pocket planners, or wall charts.

Tip: Use symbols or shorthand to protect sensitive details.

Neighborhood Skill Directory

Why: Communities survive through shared skills, not just supplies.

What: A directory of neighbors and pod members who can provide support.

How???

- List names (or aliases) with specific skills (first aid, mechanics, childcare, translation, tech repair, gardening).
- Print and distribute within your group, network, community.

Security & Safety

Why it matters: Safety is both physical and legal. Offline preparedness reduces vulnerability to surveillance, raids, and emergencies.

Hard Drives

Why: Movements generate sensitive records, photos, writings, histories, legal documents that can be lost, seized, or corrupted.

What: Two encrypted external hard drives.

How??? Personal Copy: Keep one drive with you for daily use and updates. Off-Site Copy: Store the second in a secure location not on your property, accessible to a trusted person if needed.

Legal Support Cards

Why: Panic erases memory. Small cards with your rights and hotline numbers keep people safe.

What: Durable, wallet-sized cards.

How??? Distribute widely; laminate if possible.

Codes & Signals

Why: Open communication can be intercepted.

What: Simple code words or visual signals.

How??? Create a shared system (chalk mark, symbol, phrase) known only to trusted members.

Paper Maps

Why: GPS can fail or be tracked.

What: Local and regional printed maps.

How??? Mark safe houses, clinics, escape routes, and meeting points.

Police Scanners

Why: Early warning of police movements or emergencies can save lives.

What: Handheld radio scanners or phone apps that monitor public safety frequencies.

How???

- Learn your local scanner codes (many are online).
- Assign 1–2 people per pod to monitor and relay.
- Store scanner radios with spare batteries in go-bags.

Trusted Neighbor/Emergency Contact

Why: If something happens to you, someone outside your pod should raise the alarm.

What: A nearby ally (neighbor, friend, family member) who agrees to call your emergency contact or check in if needed.

How???

- Share key info (emergency contact #, safe house location).
- Agree on "red flag" triggers (missed check-ins, sudden police presence, no response after a set time).
- Keep arrangements simple and discreet.

Prepaid Cards

Why: Cash is best for privacy, but some transactions (travel, hotels, certain purchases) require a card. Prepaid cards add flexibility without tying purchases to your main bank account.

How???

- Buy with cash to reduce traceability.
- Avoid registering the card with your real information if not required.
- Use for travel, supplies, or online purchases that you don't want linked to your name.
- Keep a small emergency fund loaded for sudden needs.

Risks: Some cards require ID to buy or reload; know your local rules. Prepaid cards are not fully anonymous but can reduce exposure.

Tip: Pair prepaid cards with burner phones or a shared group fund to handle unexpected expenses without exposing personal banking.

Logistics & Resources

Why it matters: Supplies and coordination keep communities alive in crisis. If resources are hidden or hoarded, movements break down.

Supply Caches

Why: If homes are targeted or supplies run low, caches preserve collective resources.

What: Discreet storage of food, water, first aid, or radios.

How??? Place in hidden but accessible locations; rotate stock.

Community Inventories

Why: One person may have a van, another a generator, together it becomes infrastructure.

What: A list of shared resources.

How??? Keep a rotating log and update quarterly.

Go-Bags

Why: Emergencies often don't give warning.

What: A personal bag with essentials: food, water, PPE, flashlight, cash, first aid, documents.

How??? Store near your exit; check supplies every 3 months.

Offline Infrastructure + Continuity

Why it matters: Creating systems for knowledge, contacts, and meeting points must be built and maintained. Keeping them up-to-date and apart of your routine ensures communities stay connected when digital tools fail.

Community "Low-Tech Libraries"

Why: Internet access isn't guaranteed; printed guides preserve critical skills.

What: Shelves of reference zines, first aid manuals, survival guides, history, legal rights, and organizing handbooks.

How to Build: Collect physical copies of essential texts. Pool resources from comrades, thrift stores, and print runs.

How to Maintain:

- Keep libraries in trusted spaces (safe houses, community centers, homes).
- Rotate copies between households to avoid a single point of failure.
- Assign "librarians" who maintain, update, and duplicate resources.

Meeting Infrastructure

Why: Groups need predictable places to gather when digital comms fail.

What: Permanent safe spaces such as libraries, community centers, churches, or private homes.

How to Build: Identify and agree on several sites in advance, balancing accessibility, safety, and neutrality.

How to Maintain:

- Establish backup spots if primary ones are unsafe or shut down.
- Practice using alternates so they're familiar, not theoretical.
- Keep printed directions and maps.

Training & Drills

Why: Skills and systems degrade without regular use. Drills ensure readiness.

What: Scenario-based practice (phones down, curfews, natural disasters, raids, surveillance crackdowns).

How to Build: Develop drill templates,- step-by-step scenarios groups can run monthly.

How to Maintain:

- Rotate leadership so skills spread widely.
- Normalize monthly check-ins to refresh contacts, supplies, and meeting points.
- After-action reviews: debrief after each drill to assess gaps and improve.

Physical Supply Depots

Why: Centralizing supplies in one house is risky. Distributed caches increase survival.

What: First aid kits, radios, batteries, maps, shelf-stable food, tools.

How to Build: Create small, hidden supply depots spread across neighborhoods.

How to Maintain:

- Rotate stock before expiration.
- Limit knowledge of locations to trusted members.
- Track inventory on paper ledgers and sync during check-ins.

Analog Printing & Reproduction

Why: Information control is a weapon; independent printing preserves communication.

What: Zines, pamphlets, flyers, about first aid, protest safety, community defense, political education, etc.

How to Build: Set up decentralized “print nodes” in households or safe spaces.

How to Maintain:

- Store extra paper, toner, ink, and templates.
- Practice low-visibility distribution (flyers, bulletin boards, hand-to-hand).
- Train multiple people in reproduction methods.

Tip: Printer ink is traceable use a printer at a local business or print shop. Pay with cash or prepaid card and attach the document to a burner e-mail. `

How to Create A Mutual Aid Pod Map

A pod is group of up to 5-30 people who organize hyper-locally to share needs, resources, and support.

Examples:

- Food (both grocery store trips and prep)
- Childcare (especially as schools close)
- Picking up medicine or other absolutely essential errands
- Cleaning supplies
- Financial support (especially as more workers get laid off or have to stay home without sick leave)
- Emotional support and socializing
- Mental health counseling and services
- Recreational activities, for both adults and children
- Help navigating benefits processes
- Language translation/support
- Information on what community resources are available
- Tech assistance
- Internet access
- Timely and accurate public health information

We organize pods block by block to make sure that nobody gets left behind, and then we connect the pods in a network so they can communicate and coordinate.

Being a Pod Point Person

Every pod has a Pod Point Person (PPP). As a PPP, you agree to be responsible for:

1. reaching out to the people in your area (block, village, town, neighborhood of city)
2. checking in on and keeping track of offerings & needs
3. coordinating a neighborhood group chat, phone tree or facebook group
4. staying in touch with the PPPs from other neighborhoods to pool resources, solve problems, and support each other

Below is a step by step guide for setting up a neighborhood pod. It is offered as a starting point, with full awareness that all of you have individual relationships to your community and that understanding and shaping these will be a big part of this work. Feel free to adapt anything in this guide to fit the needs of you and your neighbors.

Step-by-Step Guide to Building a Pod

Start building a team

Find a buddy or two (if you can) to build your neighborhood pod.

- A buddy helps make the work feel less overwhelming — you can plan things together
- A buddy keeps you accountable to each other
- A buddy may have relationships and know resources you don't

Start by identifying someone in your building or block, and text/call them to ask them to be your partner in building a neighborhood network. (Just because you are the person starting the outreach process does not mean that you will be the Neighborhood Point Person or that you have to do this all by yourself.)

Define & map your zone

Pods tend to work better when they are small, 5-30 people – but please do what works best for your neighborhood. If there are more than 30 neighbors interested, you can ask if anyone else in the group wants to be a PPP and break off into their own pod.

Whatever you decide, map it out. If it's your street, walk around and write down all the house numbers. Be thorough and check side roads that you might not have been down before. We do this so that once we start contacting neighbors, we can make sure we don't leave anyone behind!

Make a plan

a. Name your group — it can be something fun!
b. Decide how you'll communicate with your neighbors. You have a couple options:

   i. Make a group text or social media chat if everyone is comfortable with it (WhatsApp, Signal, Facebook, SMS, Telegram, etc.)
   ii. If most people can do text but some can only talk by phone, assign people to be responsible for calling those people to update them.
   iii. If most people are only comfortable talking by phone, set up a phone tree.

3. Decide who will do outreach, what information you need to gather, and how you will keep track.

Invite your neighbors

Be ready to start fielding requests pretty quickly. Be willing to ask potential members if they have the capacity to help you coordinate the pod and what skills they can contribute

a. Contact as many people as you can over the phone

This is to limit transmission. Introduce yourself as a neighbor, be really friendly and explain you're just here to help and ask them the questions on your questionnaire. And ask if they have any of their other neighbors numbers so you can call them too!

b. Fill in the gaps by flyering

For anyone who is unreachable by other means, flyer their houses. *It is illegal to put things in other people's mailboxes: try the crack of their door, between screen door and main door, etc.

Have a conversation

Your pod will only be as strong and resilient as your relationships, so it's important to set up some introductory conversations. Set some community agreements, for example, treating each other with respect and assuming the best intentions. You also want to get a sense of what each person needs, and what each person can do to help. These are some questions to ask each other:

- What are your hobbies and interests?
- What languages do you speak?
- When are you generally working/busy and when are you generally available?
- How regularly do you want to check in?
- What is your living situation like and who else lives with you?
- Who are your emergency contacts?
- What resources, skills or knowledge do you have that you could share with the pod or help others with?
- What are your needs? What are you afraid of losing? What do you need help with?
- Do you have any important health info about yourself you want to share with me? For example, do you have regular prescriptions or appointments you need to maintain?
- What will be your primary concerns if the pandemic lasts two months or longer?
- Do you have any important health info about yourself you want to share with me? For example, do you have regular prescriptions or appointments you need to maintain?
- What will be your primary concerns if the pandemic lasts two months or longer?

You might find that it takes multiple conversations with each other before people feel comfortable discussing the last few questions. That's okay! Building relationships and trust is what this is all about.

Support each other

- Make sure someone is sending a message to the pod at least every few days and remind folks to check in with their neighbors. This is a tough time and folks might have a hard time admitting when they are struggling.

- Organize to support needs as they arise. Some needs may be met within pods, some may require connecting with other pods or local organizations or organizing as a broader community.

- As information and resources become available through the network let folks in your pod know. Have a weekly “sound-off:” ask neighbors on the thread to submit a word or emoji about how they’re doing. If someone submitted an indicator that they’re struggling, or did not respond at all, check in individually.

- Even though this pod model is arising out of crisis, not everything needs to focus solely on survival. For example, your pod could have:
    - Weekly sound-offs
    - Weekly calls
    - Art, game, or movie calls
    - Morning coffee
    - Safe outdoor recreation activities

Mutual Aid Pod Map Template

YOUR NAME:	NAME OF MAP:
DATE MAPPED:	PROGRESS CHECK DATE:

CARMEN'S FAMILY FOR HOUSING

FAMILY IN NEXT CITY HAS HOUSE FOR US. FROM THIS AREA. BROTHER CAN HELP TOO

• HAS A CAR + CAN DRIVE W/OUT USING GPS. (6 people)

PORTABLE + RECHARGABLE BATTERY • EXTRA MASKS • SUPPLIES FOR KIDS.

CARMEN

SARAH

TASHMICA

FIRE PREP

INEZ

SHANNON

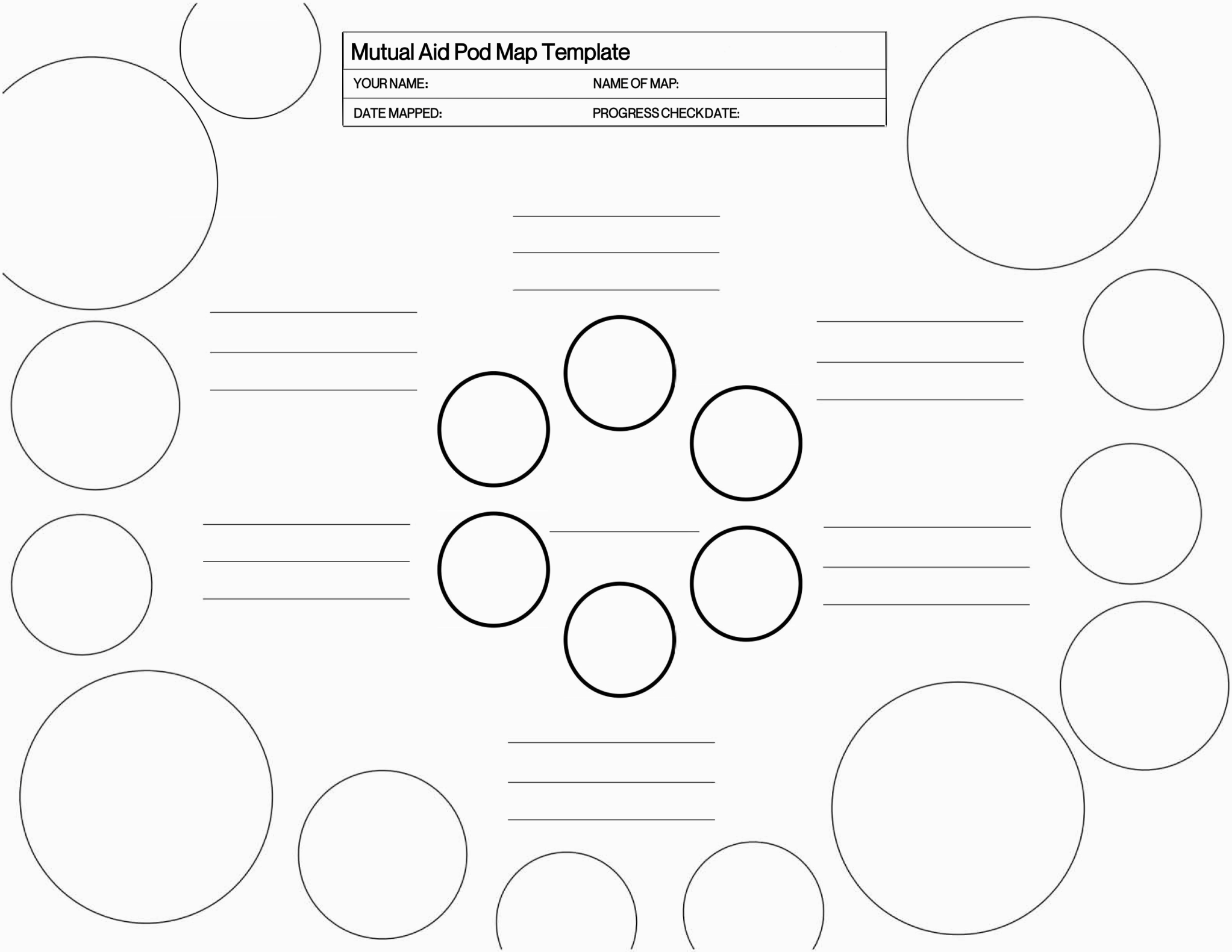
HAS 3 GO-BAGS READY • EXTENSIVE CAMPING/SURVIVAL SKILLS.

• CAN HELP LOAD HEAVY THINGS • HAS EMERGENCY WATER + FOOD PACKED + READY

SURVIVAL TRAININGS! FROM THE BY THE STARS COLLECTIVE

Mutual Aid Pod Map Template

YOUR NAME:	NAME OF MAP:
DATE MAPPED:	PROGRESS CHECK DATE:



Contact List

Name		Birthday	
Phone	Email	Notes	
Address			

Name		Birthday	
Phone	Email	Notes	
Address			

Name		Birthday	
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Address			

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About Shadowbanned Magazine

Shadowbanned Magazine exists to protect and amplify dissenting voices in a time when free speech is under direct threat. We publish both online and in print, ensuring that resistance, memory, and truth remain accessible. No matter what platforms or powers attempt to erase them.

Our mission is to archive and safeguard the voice of the people, documenting struggles, movements, and ideas that challenge systems of control. We're building a community that can thrive both on and offline. Our work rejects the rule of algorithms and tech oligarchs, creating space where truth can circulate freely.

Subscribe to our newsletter to stay connected outside the algorithm. And if you can, become a member for as little as $5 a month. Your support keeps this work alive and ensures the truth of the people will never be silenced.

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