

SHADOWBANNED MAGAZINE PRESENTS

# Beyond the Feed



## How to Organize Offline



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# 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



# 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

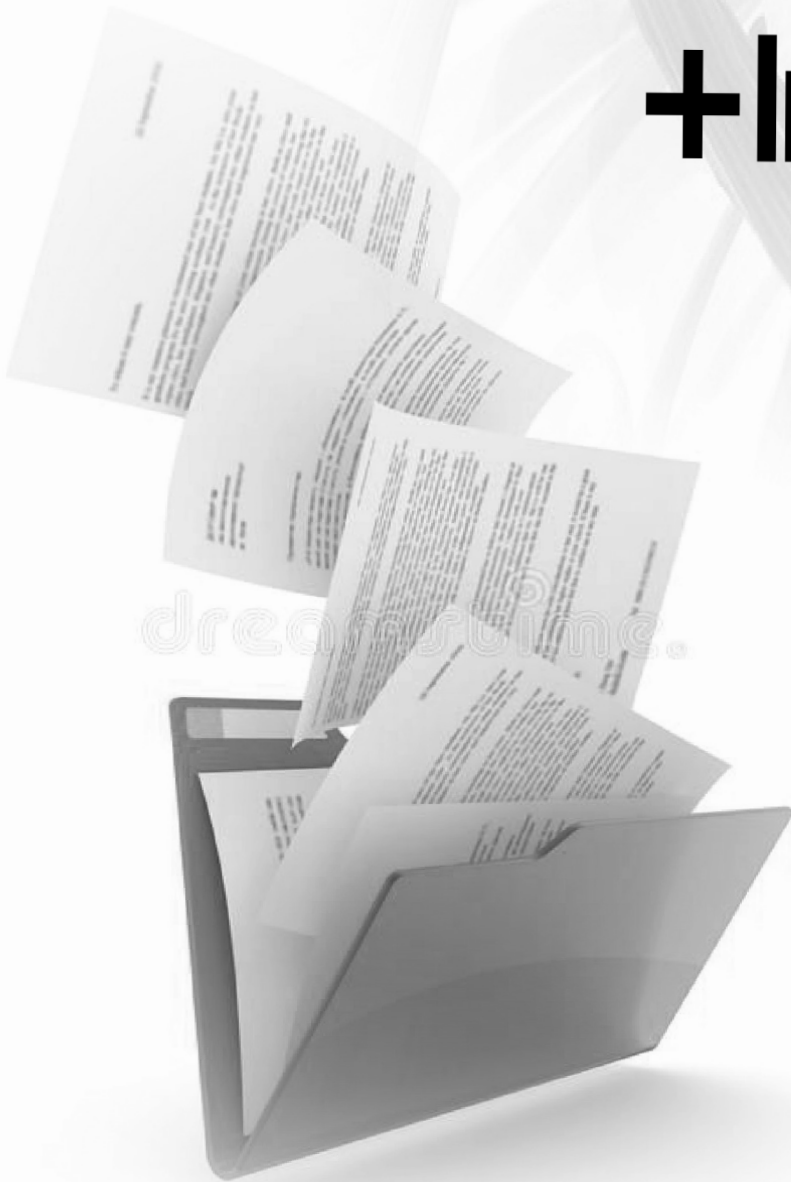
**What:** Pre-arranged physical spaces where your group can regroup if digital comms fail.

**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



dreamstime.

## 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

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### 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.*

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### 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.

The background is a grayscale digital illustration. In the upper left, a fingerprint is being scanned, with a grid overlay. To its right, a screen displays a padlock icon and some data. In the lower half, a bundle of fiber optic cables is shown, with light trails emanating from them. The text "Security + Safety" is centered in the middle of the image.

# Security + Safety

# 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.

## 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.

*Tip: When create codes + signals do not discuss them out loud write them down and only share in person.*

## 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.

## 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



# 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**

# 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.

## 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 plan and organize.

**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. If flyering or wheatpasting use a printer at a local business or print shop. Pay with cash or prepaid card. When uploading the document use a burner e-mail.*

# Resources



# Building a Mutual Aid Pod Network

## What Is a Mutual Aid Pod?

A mutual aid pod is a small, neighborhood-based group of roughly 5 to 30 people who support one another by sharing resources, information, and care. Organizing at this scale helps ensure that everyone stays connected and that no one is overlooked.

Pods can support a wide range of needs, including:

- Food and grocery runs
- Childcare and essential errands
- Financial and emotional support
- Health and mental health resources
- Translation and tech assistance
- Internet access and reliable information
- Recreation and community activities

Individual pods form the foundation of a larger network. By connecting with neighboring groups, communities can share resources, coordinate responses, and solve problems collectively.

## The Role of a Pod Coordinator

Each pod benefits from having one or more people who help keep things organized. This role does not mean doing everything alone. Instead, coordinators help maintain communication and connect people with one another.

Responsibilities may include:

- Reach out to neighbors.
- Keep track of needs and available resources.
- Maintain communication through group chats, phone trees, or other channels.
- Coordinate with nearby pods to share resources and solve problems together.

## Collaborating With Nearby Pods

Stay in contact with organizers in surrounding areas so groups can share information, exchange resources, and support one another when larger challenges arise

## A Flexible Framework

The following guide offers one possible approach to building a neighborhood pod. Every community has its own strengths, relationships, and needs, so there is no single model that works everywhere..

# Step-by-Step Guide to Building a Pod

## 1. Find One or Two People to Start With

You do not have to organize alone. Reach out to someone on your block, in your apartment building, or nearby and ask if they would be interested in helping create a local support network.

Working with another person makes things easier because:

You can divide tasks and plan together.

You have someone to keep you motivated and accountable.

They may already know neighbors or resources you don't.

The person who starts the process doesn't need to become the long-term coordinator. Leadership can be shared or change over time.

## 2. Decide Your Area

Smaller groups are often easier to maintain. Many support circles work best with between 5 and 30 households, but every neighborhood is different.

Choose a manageable area, such as:

One apartment building

A few blocks

A single street

Take time to map out the area and note every address so that no one is accidentally overlooked. If interest grows beyond what one group can comfortably handle, encourage others to help form additional circles.

### 3. Make Some Basic Plans

#### Choose a Name

Pick something simple, practical, or fun that reflects your community.

#### Decide How People Will Stay Connected

Different groups use different methods:

Group chats through Signal, WhatsApp, Telegram, SMS, or Facebook.

Phone check-ins for neighbors who prefer calls.

A phone tree where each person contacts several others.

#### Share Responsibilities

Think about:

- Who will introduce the group to neighbors.
- What information should be collected.
- How contact lists and requests will be organized.

### 4. Reach Out to Your Neighbors

As more people join, be prepared to respond to requests and identify others who might want to help coordinate.

#### Contact People Directly

Whenever possible:

- Call or text neighbors.
- Introduce yourself warmly.
- Explain that you're building a local support network.
- Ask if they know other nearby residents you could connect with.
- Leave Flyers When Necessary

For neighbors you can't reach digitally or by phone, leave information at their door or entryway.

Avoid putting materials inside mailboxes, since that is prohibited in many places.

## 5. Get to Know Each Other

Strong relationships are what make a support network work.

Create shared expectations around respect, communication, and listening. Some useful conversation starters include:

What languages do you speak?

When are you usually available?

How often would you like to stay in touch?

Who lives in your household?

Who should be contacted in an emergency?

What skills, knowledge, or resources could you share?

What kinds of support would be helpful for you?

Are there medications, appointments, or health concerns you want others to know about?

## 6. Stay Connected and Support One Another

Regular communication helps everyone stay informed and cared for.

Some ideas include:

- Sending messages every few days.
- Encouraging neighbors to check in with each other.
- Sharing information about resources and community programs.
- Connecting people with outside organizations when needs exceed what the group can provide.

A weekly check-in can be as simple as asking everyone to reply with a word or emoji describing how they're feeling. If someone doesn't respond or seems to be struggling, reach out privately.

## 7. Build Community, Not Just Crisis Response

Mutual support is about more than emergencies. Creating opportunities for connection helps relationships grow.

Consider organizing:

- Weekly check-ins
- Group phone or video calls
- Movie, game, or art nights
- Morning coffee gatherings
- Outdoor walks or activities
- Skill-sharing sessions

# 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 U.S. -  
FROM THIS AREA - BROTHER  
CAN HELP TOO

6 people  
- HAS A CAR +  
CAN DRIVE W/OUT  
USING GPS.

PORTABLE + RECHARGEABLE  
BATTERY - EXTRA  
MASKS - SUPPLIES FOR  
KIDS.

CARMEN

SARAH

TASHMICA

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

FIRE PREP

INEZ

SHANNON

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

SURVIVAL  
TRAININGS!  
FROM THE  
BY THE STARS  
COLLECTIVE

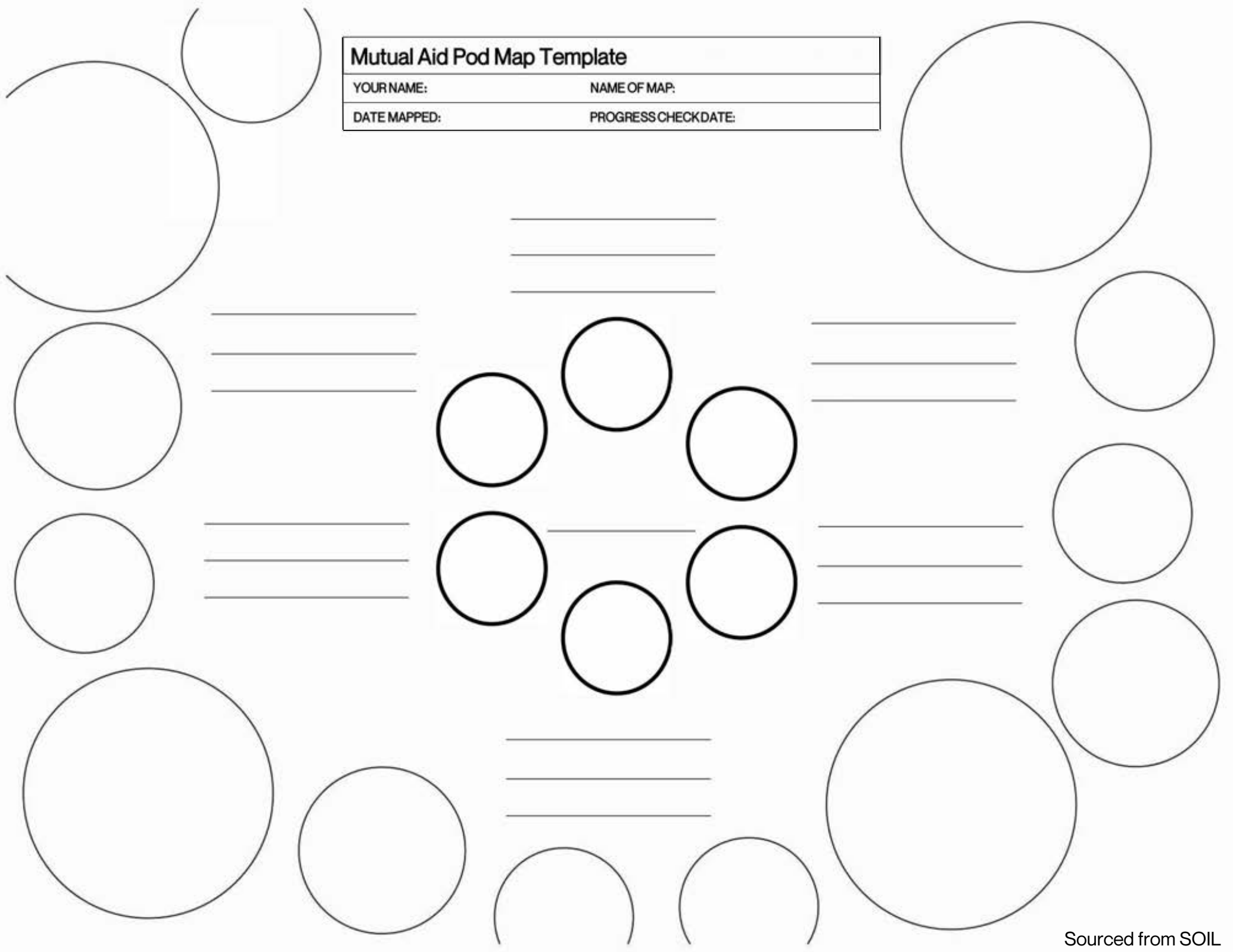
# Mutual Aid Pod Map Template

YOUR NAME:

NAME OF MAP:

DATE MAPPED:

PROGRESS CHECK DATE:





# 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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