

Why it's needed

Racial and ethnic statistics are an important part of the membership registration forms. Each individual is asked to voluntarily self report their own racial and ethnic background. In those instances when an individual does not complete the racial and ethnic information, the leaders/advisers should conduct a visual survey. Each membership registration form contains a selection related to racial background and a second selection related to ethnic background. Both selections must be completed by either the individual or a visual survey completed by the leaders/advisers prior to submitting the registration form. Individuals may select more than one racial category. The racial and ethnic categories have been matched with US Census categories. US Census information defines the racial and ethnic categories as follows:

Racial Background

American Indian and Alaskan Native – individuals having origins in any of the original peoples of North, South and Central America and who maintain tribal affiliation or community attachment.

Asian – individuals having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia or the Indian subcontinent.

Black or African American – individuals having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.

Hawaiian or Pacific Islander – individuals having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa or other Pacific Islands.

White – individuals having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

Ethnic Background

Hispanics may be of any race. The terms Hispanic and Latino are interchangeable for reporting purposes. In those instances where the individual does not complete their own racial and ethnic background, the forms contain a box in the lower right corner of the registration form for the leader/adviser to choose VS (Visual Survey) Category #1 and/or VS Category #2 when necessary. The following examples should help you use this section.

Registrant	Leader/Adviser
Provides both their racial background AND their ethnic background.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further action required
Provides their racial background but not their ethnic background.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visually surveys the member • Checks off one of the 2 ethnic selections • Checks off “VS Category #2” in the box in the lower right corner of the registration form
Provides their ethnic background but not their racial background.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visually surveys the member • Checks off one or more of the racial selections • Checks off “VS Category #1” in the box in the lower right corner of the registration form
Does not provide either their racial or ethnic background.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visually surveys the member • Checks off both the appropriate racial and ethnic categories • Checks off both “VS Category #1” and “VS Category #2” in the lower right corner of the registration form