Signing up for a group

1. Type Community.familysearch.org into the URL bar. Do not do a google search.

2. This page should come up. Notice that it looks like the FamilySearch homepage and asks you to login with your FamilySearch account.

3. You will see two screens that will ask for your approval and agreement to abide by the rules. This is the typical set of questions that you would be asked when you join any group. In the first, you will click on ‘Accept.’
In the second, you need to check the little box, then click ‘Next.’

FamilySearch is a family-oriented site and is intended to be appropriate for all ages. All added content is public. Review the FamilySearch Submission Agreement and Upload Guidelines and Policies.

I agree to the Agreement and Guidelines above.

Next

4. You should see this page. Click on “groups” at the bottom right (Do NOT click on ‘Questions’! It takes you to the wrong part of the forums):
5. In the search bar, which is right under the word “Groups,” type the name of the group that you want to join, such as “Germany,” and click the little magnifying glass to the right to search. You can also scroll through the entire list of groups.

6. Now, the Germany link will appear under the search bar. Click on the “Join” button off to the right.
7. Now you are in the Germany forum. You can post a question by clicking on the word “Question.”

8. You will want to consider how often and in what format you want to receive notices from your groups. You can get an email for each post to the group, a daily digest, or a weekly digest. If you post questions or want to be very active on the site, you will probably want to choose “Each Post.”

To change your notification preference, click on “Manage Notifications.” The default is “Weekly Digest.”

Then click on the option that you want.
Instructions to return to the group

The basic instructions to return to the groups are similar to signing up, but there are some differences.

1. Type Community.familysearch.org into the URL bar. Do not do a google search.

2. This page should come up. Notice that it looks like the FS homepage and asks you to login.

3. At this page, instead of clicking on ‘Groups,’ click on ‘My Feed.’ This will take you to the list of groups that you have signed up for. If you ever get a message telling you that there is an error with signing you in, click on ‘My Feed’ anyway and this will usually take you to the right page, in spite of the message.
4. Here, you see to the left of the page the list of groups to which you belong. Click on the group that you want to go to.

My Groups

- Austro-Hungarian Empire: 108
- Nordic Countries: 176
- Slovakian Research: 9
- Germany: 253
- Switzerland: 71
- Belgium, Luxembourg, and The Netherlands: 61
- Poland: 8
- Russian Empire: 9

You will now be in your group.

**Bookmarking groups**

With a bookmark, you can go directly to your specific group. These instructions for setting bookmarks are for the Google Chrome browser; if you use Firefox, Microsoft Explorer/Edge, or Safari, setting bookmarks may vary.

1. Go to the specific group you want to bookmark. You should be on the main group page. In Google Chrome, click on the star to the right of the URL line.
2. You will now see a popup window that will allow you to add the bookmark. You can call the bookmark whatever you want; the default is Group: _____ (group name). Under Folder, make sure the bookmark is on in the Bookmarks bar folder. When you are finished, click Done.

3. Your bookmark should now appear in the bookmark bar below the URL. If you do not have enough room to display all your bookmarks, there should appear a double right arrow >> at the end of the bookmarks bar. Click to show the rest of your bookmarks.