

About

Background on the Parkour Forum

The Parkour Forum is a non-commercial site created and sponsored by the creators of Parkour, They Said (<http://parkour.theysaid.world/>) as a public service to the global parkour community. This site will have no additional sponsorships, no advertisements, and no solicitations for donations. It is a public space that has been donated to the global parkour community with the goal of developing and preserving parkour as a self-directed practice that promotes human exceptionalism, independence, and voluntary cooperation. This website is a free space for ideas—a public place where you can meet and communicate with parkour practitioners on a global or local scale and discuss your ideas about parkour in a meaningful, constructive way.

Parkour is unique among fitness activities in that it adapts to both individual ability and the environment in which it is practiced. Unlike conventional competitive sports with prescribed rules and tightly-defined activities, parkour offers independent choice and self-directed action. In contrast to the specialized team roles of many competitive sports, parkour preserves individual choice allowing the practitioner to select activities based on ability, the practice environment, and the goal.

The individualized nature of parkour means that no two individuals and no two teams practice parkour in exactly the same way. Not surprisingly, parkour lacks the tools it needs for optimal development and for protection from corruption by outside organizations.

To develop effectively, practitioners need to be able to share best practices, to collaborate to overcome challenges, and to preserve new knowledge in an effective way on a global scale. The temporary, ephemeral nature of social media allows even the most brilliant ideas to fade away. Moreover, social media does not lend itself to any kind of in-depth discussion or detailed description that extends beyond a few sentences or a short paragraph. You cannot build a future if you forget your past. The Parkour Forum solves these problems by providing a space to discuss and share ideas and practices in a way that allows the ideas to be developed on a global scale over time. With translation capability, individual practitioners can contribute to The Parkour Forum and read posts in their preferred languages. Because posts are saved, discussions can be picked up again days, weeks, or years later. The Parkour Forum lets participants share ideas across the globe and across time while providing access for everyone to the best ideas in parkour by overcoming the challenges of language barriers as well as the shifting, temporary, superficial, and dispersed nature of social media.

Parkour as a practice also needs protection to preserve its strengths of independence and voluntary cooperative effort. A secondary goal of this site is to provide a space in which a global parkour association can develop. Previous attempts at this have failed, but these attempts illustrate the recognized need for some kind of association or organization. Without an association to speak for parkour and represent many, most, or all of parkour practitioners and groups, our practices are exposed to takeover and negative influences from outside forces and organizations. Although previous attempts at creating an organization or governing body have been unsuccessful, the need is real and urgent. The recent and ongoing takeover attempt by Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG) threatens to subjugate global parkour to a gymnastic activity. We are not merely a gymnastic activity like the pommel horse or tumbling, and we need to stand up for ourselves to maintain our independence.

The organization to represent our interests, however, must be consistent with the values and practices of parkour. It must represent, support, and protect our interests. It must not attempt to dictate rules or to define or limit what qualifies as “true” parkour. The organization must allow for individual differences and preferences, while providing an opportunity for voluntary cooperative effort on a global scale. The Parkour Forum, however, is not this organization. Rather it is an incubator in which we hope the organization can develop through *voluntary* cooperative effort.

Parkour already has some national groups whose expertise in organization will be welcomed here. Their knowledge can be shared with other groups looking to form their own national organizations as well. Because of the differences in culture, laws, customs, and social norms, national level organization seems like the best way to address issues like certification, practice in public spaces, and legal concerns. The Parkour Forum will provide a free site for existing national organizations to discuss their concerns and share their experiences in a way that can benefit their own and other national organizations. Voluntary cooperation with free choice, not forced coercion will allow us to meet the challenges of creating organizations that best serve the needs of the individual members.

At a global scale, we need an organization with the ability to provide guidance to new groups of practitioners, showcase best practices, and provide a vehicle for voicing our common, shared concerns when necessary to preserve and protect the freedoms of individual practitioners and the independence and sovereignty of parkour as a whole. When such an organization develops, responsibility for The Parkour Forum should be transferred to that group.

The Parkour Forum is your space to share ideas, organize groups, and discuss best practices and challenges. It is up to you to contribute your ideas to shape the future of parkour. In this global forum, your ideas can be read in any language, and responses from anywhere are translated into your preferred language. In a very real sense, your ideas here can change the world. Let your voice be heard. Welcome to The Parkour Forum.

Questions? Concerns?

You are invited to post in the [Meta sub-forum](#).

Administration Control Panel