

GREAT LAKES PARANORMAL TEAM ARTICLE SERIES FOR THE PUBLIC



Choosing a Paranormal Team

Not all paranormal teams are made equal. Each team tends to have their own spirit, methods of how they go about helping others with possible paranormal issues. If you are looking around for a paranormal team to look into some possible paranormal problems, choose wisely.

There are paranormal teams that focus on specific areas only, we will list them here:

Cryptozoology. Now that is a big word. What it means is that this particular team focuses on legends, such as Werewolves, Bigfoot, the Goatman, swamp monsters, anything creepy crawly that can't be explained. The possible presence of Bigfoot by the way, has also been connected to paranormal events.

UFO research. These teams should be in a different category, but sometimes they are thrown in there with paranormal teams. It is believed that sometimes alien activity can look like or appear as paranormal.

Demon/angel/spirits research/investigations. Now this one is more in the spiritual realm. Not exactly paranormal. This is really a tough one because it is based on faith and culture. The team has to be really, really good at what they do and have a solid theological background to know what they are doing. Be careful with teams that seem a bit fanatic, or hyper-vigilant about what they do. Seek only the well educated, professional, well trained, down to earth teams in this area.

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Paranormal and other categories. Some teams become eclectic and attempt to help in as many areas as possible. That is challenging, because you really need specific team members that can focus on specialty areas. So there are teams out there that try to tackle almost anything bizarre, which would include all of the above: issues with aliens, cryptics, Demons, spirits, UFO's and of course the paranormal.

Paranormal teams. Paranormal teams seek what is not normal. Seems simple enough. However more is involved than just that. If they find something not normal, they have to look for the root cause of the abnormality. What kind of abnormalities? Objects moving on their own, voices being heard that can't be explained, electrical issues that can't be explained, shadows being seen, footsteps being heard, things appearing and disappearing on their own, odd smells or noises, uneasiness or ill-feelings not explained, etc. This takes patience, research, debunking, lots of team work, the ability to categorize the abnormality as correctly as possible and be able to provide possible solutions.

Paranormal adventures/tour teams: These teams develop public events in which people can participate in an investigation or experience the paranormal through a tour. They are not so much out to go help others. Some of these teams do put in some time to help a family or an individual. But they are dedicated mostly to public events. Some have their own radio shows or TV shows and they use these events to fill their time slots. Be careful with this type of team if you want to keep your life private. Remember, they need to fill in their schedule and your stressful situation just might be what they are looking for. If you don't want your life plastered on TV or radio, don't sign anything and look for another team that is focused only on your needs.

Now, let us say you know what team you need. What should you look for in terms of quality and professionalism? Here is a check list of what you should find in a good team:

A clear way to contact the team

A good response time

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They schedule an interview with you to understand what is going on, verses jumping into their car and arriving 20 minutes after your first call.

They are clear on how they operate, their timelines and how they do their investigations.

They are very good in keeping clear communication with you.

They are available if you have questions before, during or after the investigation.

They are clear in terms of an arrival time and departure time

They will be clear in telling you who and how many are coming

They can tell you right off the bat what tools they will be using

They have a good website. Not spooky or scary. Just straight forward information for you to understand what, who, when, and how.

They never charge you ANYTHING, AT ANYTIME, FOR ANY SERVICES. (This is an absolute in the paranormal field, it is unethical to ever charge for something you can't 100% prove). So if there is a price tag, move on to another team. If you want to contribute to help out with gas or snacks, that is fine.

Ask how long they have been doing investigations (3 years on up is recommended). It takes practice to do this kind of job right and in a safe manner. Sometimes teams merge with one another. So you can count the experience of individual members, if that is of help.

Having a uniform helps. It just means they are a bit more invested in what they are doing. It does not have to be an absolute. Some teams to protect your privacy, use I.D cards instead, so you know they are the ones you called and they are not walking around the outside of your home with flashy paranormal shirts and announcing their presence. My team uses uniforms also for hygiene needs. Sometimes we are crawling around in tight quarters, or in the bush and we get dirty. It is just part of the job. It just helps to protect our every day clothing.

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They are good listeners, calm, collect, they keep your safety and the teams safety as priority. They are all around professional

They don't jump to wild conclusions before or during an investigation. They take their time, take their data home to analyze and get back to you in a timely manner.

They keep and respect your privacy. They will usually have you sign a document that states that you are requesting zero disclosure of your case. You do have the option of partial or full disclosure. In some situations, your case could help research. But regardless, I always recommend zero disclosure. Keep it simple, keep it private.

We realize this is a long list. But it helps give you an idea of what to look for.

Being stressed is hard enough. Don't let the team stress you out even more. They should be a good source of support and help reduce your concerns as you work with them.

Good luck and God speed!