

Escape the Anti-Ace Brigade

Launched in October 2020, Escape the Anti-Ace Brigade (ETAAB) is a giveaway initiative to distribute Pillowfort invites in the ace community. Help spread the word on [Tumblr](#) and [Twitter](#).

[Jump to "How do I join?" to get started.](#)

♠ Why not just stick with Tumblr and Twitter?

The advantages and disadvantages of these two sites mean they're more effective at some jobs, less so at others. Twitter is a very large, active platform and a standard choice for announcing live updates on events. Tumblr can be very effective at circulation and has a significant place in ace community history. These sites remain top choices for spreading information and getting the word out.

Unfortunately, they are not as nearly effective at insulating users from negative or unwanted attention. Tumblr and Twitter have become known hotbeds of hostility and harassment, including harassment that targets aces -- and lax moderation policies have done nothing to intervene. If aces want a way to step away from the firestorm *without* having to give up social media entirely, then that's a perfect reason to consider a more ace-safe place like Pillowfort.

♠ Why Pillowfort?

[Pillowfort.social](#) is a general blogging platform that can serve as a more insulated hideaway when everything else becomes too much. It may not be as slick or polished as corporate social media, but as a small and user-focused site, Pillowfort offers the following benefits:

- **User-moderated community spaces** are equipped with the power for mods to simply delete spam that doesn't belong in that particular space.
- The site [Terms of Service](#) takes **a hard line on harassment** and is **actually enforced**.
- Aces on PF get to enjoy **the absence of dedicated anti-ace blogging circles**, which have remained a non-issue on the site for the past three years.
- PF combines an **organizational tagging system** with a **threaded comment section, without a restrictive character limit**, making it a good option for hosting discussion.
- PF is **100% user-funded** and does not answer to venture capitalists or advertisers -- so its users don't have to deal with any ads or annoying algorithms, period.

♠ But won't the anti-ace brigade just follow us there?

They can try. They'll probably encounter some difficulty, though, for three reasons:

1. **It's not allowed.** The [TOS](#) specifically prohibits content or conduct that disparages another user's sexual identity, and harassment reports are actually taken seriously by the staff. It may sound hard to believe if you're coming from a place like Tumblr or Twitter, but the extreme ends of aggressive behavior actually *does* get deleted.
2. **Blocking and self-protection tools are strong.** A blocked user cannot see your posts, your comments, or your blog at all, and there are no options for anonymous mail. Plus, with the flick of a switch, comments can be disabled and sensitive posts can be marked viewable only to your mutual followers.
3. **Conflict works differently.** Pillowfort's lack of a reblog-additions feature or quote-retweet feature means that reblogging-with-a-snide-retort just isn't structurally supported. When disagreements happen, they happen in the comments, where the OP has the option to delete anything out of line.

♠ Do people actually like it there?

Overall? Yes! For individual perspectives, see [Lav's review](#) or [the comments on this post](#). You can even check the place out for yourself using [the demo account](#).

♠ How do I join?

If you're ready to give PF a shot, there are two ways.

Last year, PF launched [an invitation system](#) that allows existing users to generate free invite links. The purpose of ETAAB is to serve as a giveaway event, putting these invites in the hands of those who need them. **Just fill out [this form](#) to request your invite.** Note there may be a waiting period of a few days before your invite is delivered.

Alternatively, if you'd like to skip the line, you can also pay a one-time \$5 donation to PF directly in order to [generate your own invite](#). This option exists because Pillowfort is entirely supported by user donations, but through ETAAB you can choose to join for free.

♠ Do I have to be ace to get an ETAAB invite?

Although the premise of ETAAB is ace-specific, you do not have to identify as ace to request an invite through ETAAB.

♠ I'm a current Pillowfort user. How can I donate some invites?

Thanks for the help! You can use [this donation form](#).

♠ Why was ETAAB created?

ETAAB was created as a response to the extent and severity of anti-ace harassment on contemporary social media. One of the earliest spikes began on Tumblr in 2011, and after the changes made to Tumblr in December 2018, a wave of migration to Twitter has intensified the same problems there as well. For some aces these problems are merely a nuisance, but for others, the continual onslaught can have a severe impact on mental health. Everyone deserves to catch a break if they want one.

As an escape route, Pillowfort is being recommended for three reasons:

1. **Platform Type:** While Pillowfort is distinctly its own site, it *is* essentially a blogging platform, with some core features in common with Twitter and Tumblr. These similarities should make the site easier to adapt to compared to the more dissimilar options, such as forums and chat servers, which offer different features and serve a different role.
2. **Protection:** Pillowfort's features make it easier for vulnerable users to protect themselves. For instance, viewlocking certain posts to mutuals-only is an ideal option for vent posting, and the block feature makes both users mutually invisible. Plus, the ability to disable comments and reblogs creates a crucial failsafe in case a controversial post receives more attention than the original poster is ready to handle.
3. **No Anti-Ace Brigade:** Pillowfort users enjoy a noticeably different atmosphere on the site compared to Tumblr and Twitter, and these differences include the relative *absence* of the aggressive anti-ace blogging circles that have become so entrenched elsewhere.

All together, these three qualities make Pillowfort a worthwhile option to consider if you're looking to catch a break from the anti-ace brigade.

♠ Who created ETAAB? Is this an official Pillowfort initiative?

No, ETAAB is an initiative put together by PF users themselves, with no official involvement from the site. This information document was created by Coyote ([@osteophage](#)), the request form and airtable base were created by Laura G. ([@laura-g](#)) with extra troubleshooting by Kosame ([@kosame](#)), the social media accounts are managed by Coyote with technical support by J ([@anacedragon](#)), and over 500 invites were crowdsourced by many more current PF users in order to make this project possible.

For further questions about ETAAB, please email escapetheantiacebrigade@gmail.com.