

# *Professionals Opening Doors*

A POD—short for Professionals Opening Doors—is a small, ACG member-driven networking group that meets regularly to build trusted relationships, exchange business opportunities, and expand professional networks.

Each POD creates its own rhythm, personality, and focus, but all share the same goal: to help ACG members connect meaningfully and open doors for one another. PODs bring together professionals from across the middle-market ecosystem—including investment bankers, investors, lawyers, accountants, consultants, and business advisors—each contributing valuable insight and expertise. By uniting members from complementary disciplines, PODs create space to deepen relationships that lead to real collaboration and growth.

## **PODs are built on three simple principles:**

- Consistency: Members meet regularly to maintain momentum and trust.
- Engagement: Every participant actively contributes ideas, introductions, and support.
- Professionalism: Each group fosters respect, confidentiality, and mutual benefit.

## **What a POD Is Not**

A POD is not a casual networking group or social club. It's not about handing out business cards or quick sales pitches. Instead, it's a community of peers who invest time and effort into building genuine, long-term connections.

While every POD has flexibility in how often it meets or what format it takes, all share a commitment to adding value—for yourself and for others. The goal isn't just to network, but to collaborate and help each other succeed.

## **Why Join a POD?**

By joining a POD, you're committing to become part of a circle of professionals who want to see each other win. Members gain:

- Steady networking rhythm and accountability
- Access to diverse expertise and industries
- Trusted relationships that lead to meaningful business opportunities

Whether you're looking to expand your reach, explore new partnerships, or simply stay connected with like-minded professionals, PODs are where relationships turn into results. PODs extend ACG's mission of helping professionals connect, learn, and grow through genuine relationships.