

What If We Want To Start An On-Campus Club?

If your team is at a place where you are interested in starting an on-campus club, this is the chapter for you!

Starting a Club: The Checklist

Before beginning a club on your campus...

make sure you meet the following requirements:

- You have assembled a ministry “team/community.”
- Your team has worked through the first half of this workbook together.
- Your team is regularly practicing abiding in Christ together.
- Your team members are already actively loving, serving and reaching out to other students on your campus through relationships.
- Your team has spent time in prayer and you feel that the Holy Spirit is leading your team to start a club on your campus.

The reason we have put this list before you is because, often times, students jump into starting a Christian club on their campus right off the bat. The problem is, unless the students are already practicing sharing Jesus through loving others, their club won't be effective in reaching out to their campus. Relationships are the foundation! Organized ministries, like clubs, should be used to **ENHANCE** the relational ministry you're already doing!

Warning: Christian clubs can often become ingrown “holy huddles” that mimic youth groups when they should be places to encourage each other, spur each other on to serve your campus and to create a welcoming community for your friends and peers who don't yet know Jesus!

Tip: THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX! You don't have to create a “Christian” club to have a presence on campus. Think about other creative outreach-oriented clubs you could start that would appeal to more than just Christians! Like a service club, an athletic club, etc!

Now that we've covered all of that, we will release you to get started!

DREAM TOGETHER...

- If you feel the Lord is calling your team to create a club, get together with your team, and anyone else who is interested, to discuss **WHY** you want to start a ministry or outreach... **WHY** have a club?
- Discuss what the **PURPOSE** of the ministry will be. What has God laid on your heart to accomplish through this campus club?
- Discuss and pray about the **TYPE** of club you're interested in starting. Whether it's a Christian club, a service club, a prayer club, a club dedicated to a cause (like AIDS in Africa), an athletic club, etc!

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PRAY TOGETHER...

- Thank God for all He desires to do on your campus.
- Pray that He would give you a bold vision for your non-Christian peers and your campus.
- Pray that He would prepare your hearts and walk you through the beginning of this process.
- Pray that God would open doors on your campus for effective ministry.
- Pray that He would prepare the hearts of the school administration and make them open and receptive to your club.
- Pray that He would use your club to bring many to Christ on your campus!

DO RESEARCH...

Get a feel for the needs on your campus and what's happening there already!

- Find others on your campus who have the same heart and vision and will join your team (be sure the group includes members from different churches and backgrounds for balance).
- Notice where God has already been working on your campus (see if there are any existing, effective Christian/Outreach ministries you could join or partner with before you begin a new one).
- Know the situation at your school:
 - Is your school government-funded?
 - Are there any extra-curricular clubs at your school?
 - How do they promote themselves?
 - Where/when do their meetings take place and what do they look like?
- Take a survey of students who would be interested in your type of club and what times they are able to meet.
- Collect information you will need:
 - School district policies, applications
 - A copy of the Equal Access Act (in the "Legal Issues" section of this workbook)
 - Etc.
- If you don't already have a teacher sponsor, begin looking for Christian teachers/coaches/staff at your school that would be willing to sponsor and support your ministry.
- Delegate responsibilities and assign necessary tasks.

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GET READY...

- Call a meeting with like-minded students who will be a part of the leadership team.
- Commit to being dedicated to the ministry even when times are tough and things are hard.
- Communicate the vision for the club and make sure everyone understands its purpose.
- Decide on a missions statement for your club.
 - It should be short.
 - It should say why you want your club to exist.
 - Everything you do in your ministry should coincide with it.
 - All should agree on it.
- Pick a name for your club. (Names say a lot and will be the first impression people have.)
- Discuss the best day/time for the club and the leadership team to meet.
- Complete all necessary applications required by your school.

GET SUPPORT...

- Ask ten Christian adults to pray for your team as you begin to plan your ministry.
- Ask one of the Christian faculty members at your school to be your club/ministry sponsor (if you don't already have one). If there are no Christian faculty members interested, look for another interested faculty member...who knows, the club might even witness to them!
- If you don't already have a coach/mentor for your team, ask a Christian youth worker from your church and/or a Christian organization (such as Youth For Christ) to "coach" your team.

PRESENT IT...

If you need to present a club proposal to your activities director, principal, etc.

- Know your legal rights before you begin (see the "Legal Issues" section of this workbook on page 57).
- PRAY!!!
- Make sure you go together as a team.
- Make an appointment and be on time.

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Starting a Club: The Checklist

PRESENT IT... (cont.)

- Be polite, knowledgeable, respectful and persistent. Don't be apologetic, combative or defensive.
- Ask "when and where" and not "may we."
- Present a list of interested students.
- Be positive about what the club will do for the school.
- Make sure they know the club will be student-led although there may be adult visitors and speakers from time to time.
- Thank them!
- If they say NO, you can write a letter to the school superintendant stating your request and your understanding of the Equal Access Act. Ask for their involvement.
- If they STILL say no, you can seek legal support (see the "Legal Issues" section on page 57). Many schools have been able to find great, FREE legal help!

GET STARTED!!!

Once your club is given the "go ahead" you can...

- Plan your first meeting! (Have your coach help you with this if you aren't sure what to do!)
- Find creative ways to promote your club and bring friends!
- At your first meeting, present your vision for the club and ask the other students if they have any suggestions or ideas.
- Meet with your ministry team after your first meeting to talk about how it went!

AND REMEMBER...

- Always build an atmosphere of unconditional love and acceptance in your club!
- Always keep your vision and mission statement in mind!
- Always work together as a team and never depend on just one person for leadership!
- Always proceed with prayer and move in prayer, abiding in Jesus together!
- Make your club one big Holy Experiment!!

The Pulse . . .

**** The Pulse** is a great way to evaluate the health of your on-campus club or ministry!

Purpose: to estimate the level of healthy ministry occurring within a campus community based on five signs of spiritual health

- Method:**
- 1) list things you find about each Ministry Priority
 - 2) make an estimate of each area's level of activity in prayer
 - 3) check out your estimation with another person or two in prayer
 - 4) ask the Lord how this should guide your own prayer and ministry strategy

<i>ESSENTIAL CAMPUS MINISTRY PRIORITY</i>	Level Of This Activity On Campus		
	Low	Medium	High
PRAYER MINISTRY pursuing an active prayer ministry Are there a growing number of students & adults praying consistently? Are individuals & groups in the school being prayed for? Are prayer needs & results being shared with others?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
UNITY IN MINISTRY exhibiting a believers' unity in heart mind & purpose on campus Do the various Christian groups communicate with one another? Is there a shared vision for reaching students? Are relationships based on mutual trust being built?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LEADERSHIP OF MINISTRY encouraging student-led, adult-supported direction of ministry Do Christian students & adults exercise their gifts & model Christ's lifestyle? Are Christian adults mentoring & discipling students ? Are Christian students reaching their peers both on and off campus?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SHARING THE GOSPEL exercising an active plan to communicate the Gospel to every student Is there a vision and a burden for reaching those without Christ? Are multiple strategies being used to reach out to lost students & adults? Is the Gospel being shared through relationships?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EQUIPPING LEADERS receiving on-going training to reach & disciple students toward Christ Are students & adults involved in purposeful & effective training? Are relevant topics & felt needs being addressed by Christian groups on campus? Is there an atmosphere of encouragement & celebration about what God is doing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>