

5 Steps To Start a Group

Start a pro-life group on your campus to be a voice for the unborn and to provide pregnancy, parenting and post-abortive healing resources.

1. Recruit students to start the group. If you already know some pro-lifers at your school, this might be a pretty easy step. If not, your recruitment effort should take a few different forms. Posting fliers is probably the least effective method of recruitment, so focus first on other methods, but it's worth doing if you have the time. Networking with other student organizations such as religious or political groups that will likely have pro-life students is a good place to start. Tabling and Clipboarding involve approaching students with a sign-up sheet, asking if they are pro-life and getting them to sign up if they are. The SFLA recruitment guide is a much more comprehensive guide for recruiting students to your group.

2. Prepare for your first meeting. Week-nights are the best time, and a location on campus such as a coffee shop, or lounge will usually be the most convenient place. **Download and review the SFLA sample mission statement and constitution.** Edit both documents as needed to suit your group. Bring copies of both the mission statement and the constitution to the first meeting for the others to review. **Look up the requirements for becoming an official or recognized student organization at your university.** This probably involves submitting a list of students, a mission statement and a constitution.

3. Approve your name and governing documents. At your first meeting, decide on a name and a mission. **Make your mission statement specific and meaningful.** Does your group exist solely to end abortion? Do you take a position on embryonic stem cell re-

search, euthanasia, assisted suicide, the death penalty or chastity? The SFLA sample mission statement is a good example. The constitution is important in determining how your group will function. Review it as a group, make any necessary changes and then vote to approve it.

4. Appoint leadership and file for university recognition. While you may choose to elect future generations of leaders, it generally works best to appoint the first leaders. You and any others working to get the group started should be the leaders. Go over the requirements for university recognition of your group and assign someone to take care of that task.

5. Plan for your first group activity. University approval is sometimes a slow process, so plan your first event off campus or make it one that you won't need official recognition for. For example, do a diaper drive at a business or a cemetery of the innocents display with sidewalk chalk. Check out the SFLA guides for more help with these activities.

Decide on an event, plan out what tasks are required and then assign each person a role in making the event happen.

