

# STARTING A CLUB: 1-2-3

The first thing that you must understand is that by federal law, a Christian Campus club must be started and led by students. The Supreme court used the words, "Student led, student initiated." So the first step is finding students who want to start a club.

## 1. Petition the administration.

This is usually the activities director, sometimes the principal or vice principal. Tell them you want to start a club and find out what your school requires. Almost every school requires an advisor. This is usually a teacher. Some schools require a charter and can usually provide a sample charter for your club. Use the **Campus club Proposal** and the **Benefits of a Christian Club** to make your case.

## 2. Secure a location.

This is an important decision. A classroom or some other kind of meeting room should be easily accessible and a good place to actually have a meeting. A TV and VCR is a plus.

## 3. Decide on a time.

Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday during lunch is usually the best. Students can eat their lunch during your club.

## 4. Register your club.

Go to [everschool.com](http://everschool.com) and/or [yausa.com](http://yausa.com) to register your club for free and get more free resources.

### ***If you have problems . . .***

Your school cannot stop you from having a club if there is even one other club of any kind. If the principal tells you cannot have a club or discourages it for all kinds of reasons, let him or her know that you appreciate their concerns, but you still intend to exercise your constitutional rights to have an officially recognized campus club. If the problem persists, contact a pastor or other adult who can help you. [www.mycampus.net](http://www.mycampus.net) has sample letters you can download to help you through this legal process if there are problems. Usually, a little more information can help your school administrators understand the law.

If problems persist, contact My Campus Ministries at [mycampus@mycampus.net](mailto:mycampus@mycampus.net) or 707-333-9089.

# CAMPUS CLUB PROPOSAL

We are seeking to provide an opportunity for high school students to get together on a regular basis within the confines of the campus for the express purpose of prayer for fellow students, teachers, and administrators, studying the Bible and providing a spiritual forum for students.

- Leadership will be comprised of students who will direct the operation of the group.
- It will be a place in which the freedom to express one's views on Biblical passages will always be welcome.
- It will be an interdenominational group with no one church being emphasized.
- This group will not disrupt any classes, it rather complement all school policies.
- We also recognize that we cannot violate the present school policies regarding limited open forum groups.
- We will operate under the "open-membership" principle, in that any and all are welcome to attend, as long as there is no attempt to undermine any of the basic principles stated in this proposal, or to disrupt the meeting.
- We encourage scholastic achievement.
- We encourage good inter-student relationships.
- We encourage support of the faculty and administration.
- We encourage students to live quiet and peaceful lives.
- We encourage students to be positive, moral, upright, and conscientious individuals.

## THE PURPOSE AND BENEFITS OF CHRISTIAN CLUB

1. A Christian Club creates a service club for the school.
2. A Christian Club promotes a high moral standard on campus.
3. A Christian Club builds support for administration and faculty.
4. A Christian Club addresses issues that are important to students.
5. A Christian Club teaches a good work ethic that creates better students.
6. A Christian Club builds self-esteem of students.
7. A Christian Club creates a participatory attitude in the classroom. Students are less likely to be apathetic.
8. Through A Christian Club, students become person centered, seeing value in all people. This helps build and improve relationships with others.
9. A Christian Club builds a positive peer pressure group on the campus.
10. A Christian Club encourages model teens to be a peer counselors for at-risk teens.
11. A Christian Club works within the boundaries of the United States Constitution, respecting both the students' rights of "free exercise" and the schools legitimate "non-establishment" concerns.
12. A Christian Club seeks to ease the tensions and break down the barriers among cliques and other groups on campus.

# CLUB CONSTITUTION

## Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be \_\_\_\_\_.

## Article II. Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to promote the spiritual and social life of the students of \_\_\_\_\_ (name of school) by providing those opportunities for the socialization, instruction and spiritual development of students of this school.

## Article III. Statement of Faith

The Club's Statement of Faith is adapted from the Constitution of the National Association of Evangelicals, Article III:

**Section 1.** We relieve the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.

**Section 2.** We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Section 3.** We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father and in His personal return in power and glory.

**Section 4.** We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary.

**Section 5.** We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.

**Section 6.** We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of eternal punishment.

**Section 7.** We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

## Article IV. Membership

The active membership of this group shall consist of students of \_\_\_\_\_ (name of school) who regularly attend \_\_\_\_\_ (name of organization) meetings.

## Article V. Officers

The officers of this organization shall consist of the club president, vice president, treasurer and meeting facilitators.

**Section 1.** All terms of office shall be one year.

**Section 2.** All elected officers shall be chosen at the annual business meeting.

**Section 3.** All elected officers must be examples of the Christian life and regular attendees of a church which subscribes to the statement of faith.

**Section 4.** All elected officers shall pursue the spreading of the message of Jesus among the youth of the community.

**Section 5.** All elected officers shall work to provide opportunities and activities to win young people to Christ.

## **Article VI. Committees**

There shall be an executive committee consisting of the student leaders mentioned above, and such other committees as may be deemed advisable.

## **Article VII. Meetings**

Section 1. The annual business meeting shall be held at the last regular meeting in May each year.

Section 2. The executive committee (the club president, vice president, treasurer) shall have the power to fix the date of regular meetings: at least one regular meeting shall be held every week while school is in session.

## **Article VIII. Amendment**

This constitution may be amended at any regular or special business meeting of the club by two-thirds vote of those present, providing that a written statement shall have been read to the group at least 15 days prior to the date of voting.