

How to Start a Protect Life Group

1. Find out what your school requires

- A constitution, bylaws, faculty advisor, minimum membership numbers
- Don't be worried: we can help you find each of these things, even members and a faculty advisor. We'll email you a mission statement, bylaws, etc.
- Finding a faculty advisor is the hardest part. Ideally, you want one that will be very involved. But if you are in a bind, just get someone who is willing to sign the paperwork. You can look for someone more committed later.

2. Find out what your school will allow you to do

- Can you have a table up? Flyer? Chalk? Get free rooms for meetings and events? Keep a list of these things so that future leadership knows the freedom they have on campus.

3. Gather a team of friends

- Identify pro-life friends at your school and ask them to help you start a pro-life group.
- Some of these friends can be members who have no responsibilities. But you should find some friends who are responsible, dependable, and can help take on a leadership role for your group (as President, VP, Treasurer, etc).

4. Designate who will do what

- You can email us at info@protectlifemi.org for a sample list of officer roles.
- You want a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer...but outside of that, you can have any position you want. Some of my favorites to make sure you have are: an event chair and a outreach chair.
- Be clear about your expectations for each position!

5. Decide what you want to do

- What kind of events will you hold? How often will you have meetings? What will be the mission of your group? These questions sound complicated, but they really only require a few hours of planning with your leadership team.
- We recommend doing a small event every month, and 1 big event each semester. A small event includes tabling in your school lunch room or hanging flyers in the halls. A large event includes having a speaker come in to talk to your group or hosting a fundraising event for a pregnancy center.
- We have many resources to help you with planning: from a free calendar with a list of important pro-life dates, to a free speaker list, to financial support.

6. Hold bi-weekly meetings and get started!

- We recommend holding meetings every other week and holding them in the same location. Having a meeting just once a month can make it really difficult to cover all the information you need to talk about it and only allows 1 day a month for new people to come get involved with your group. Plan on having a meeting every other week.
- If you don't have much to talk about on a particular week, meet for a few minutes and then go do something fun instead. Get ice cream together or chalk your campus. Pray and sidewalk counsel in front of an abortion clinic.
- Never cancel a meeting. Whether you are talking business or doing something fun, you should keep the date. Consistency yields better results than an on again off again schedule.

7. Think Ahead: Recruit Younger Members

- Immediately after your group gets going, start recruiting younger members so that there is someone to talk over when you graduate. Plan ahead. Find younger people to join your group and encourage them to join the leadership team.
- You can recruit new members on social media, through fliers and tabling, visiting other student orgs, etc.

If you plan on starting a group at your school, contact us at info@protectlifemi.org.