



Game Plan: Youth Alive Leadership Team

No team goes into a game without having a plan for success. Any group can have a meeting and call it a club, but the club must have a purpose. It must provide a service. The members must be actively involved in the club, not just attend meetings. They must have a reason for belonging to the club. They must feel ownership and play a key role in the success and growth of the campus club.

Without a game plan, your Youth Alive club will be just another meeting. Students want to contribute to something significant for themselves and their campus. Your club should meet personal needs as well as the needs of your school. Have a club you can be proud of—a club that's exciting to participate in. Provide opportunity for involvement, not just attendance. Make your club a place to connect with other students who share your vision for the campus.

Getting organized doesn't mean you don't need to ask for the direction of the Holy Spirit. You still need to ask God to direct every aspect of the campus club; however, organization gives God much more to work with!

There are three groups of people who are key players on your campus ministry team. It is important to seek them out to help ensure successful campus ministry. A team without organization won't be effective in the game, so plan for and develop leadership.

- Student leaders
- Coaching staff
- Community partners

STUDENT LEADERS

The student leadership team is made up of the following players. Each should be a committed campus missionary.

- Core leaders
- Team players
- MVPs (Most Valuable Players)

Student leaders provide the following:

- Leadership for the club
- A system for assigning responsibilities to club members
- Representation from local churches, different grades in school, different ethnic groups on your campus, and the different activity groups of your campus (band, football, etc.).
- A direct line to the local church
- Direction and purpose for the club
- Daily operation of the club

The student leadership team should be as big as necessary. Keep in mind the two most important factors of the size of the student leadership team:

- Number of churches represented on your campus
- Number of grades in your school



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Successful campus clubs have good, solid leadership. While core leaders organize your club, you need others to assist with club meetings, make assignments, and promote your club. Team effort is important! All team players, including core leaders, must work together to create a successful campus club.

LEADERSHIP MEETINGS

Leadership should meet regularly. Work together to understand and follow the Infield Strategy. The more communication among leaders, the better! A monthly meeting helps to keep the Innings coordinated well. Planning for special projects and events will likely require more meetings and action groups within the club. Be sure you include the campus coach when possible.

STUDENT CORE LEADERS

Four students fill the primary roles of the core leaders:

- Student Relations leader
- Student Life leader
- Student Action leader
- Student Missions leader

These primary student leaders assign various responsibilities to the students of the club and recognize ministry group leaders within the club. This immediately accomplishes two things:

1. The operation of the club is shared by many students. This allows students to have ownership of the club and its operation.
2. It eliminates the tendency of natural leaders to do everything themselves, making others merely spectators.

Core leaders represent diversity!

1. Local churches: Gather leaders from a diverse group of churches. Look for leadership qualities. If you don't know of any possibilities, call different churches and ask them to suggest students.
2. Different grades: Too often, a club's leadership rests on the seniors. They graduate and leave the club without leaders the following year. This can be avoided if all grades are a part of leadership. This also provides great training for younger leaders on campus as they learn from the older students.
3. Ethnicity, gender, and socio-economic backgrounds: Include every ethnic group you possibly can in the core leadership of your club. This is an incredibly powerful statement to make to your campus! Do not assume someone does not wish to participate. Ask him or her! That student will probably feel honored. Include both guys and girls, as well as students from different economic backgrounds. Many times people do not get involved simply because they are not invited or don't feel welcome.



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4. **Campus involvement:** Though you attend the same school, you go in many different directions outside of class. The band and the football team seldom spend time together. Your club needs representation from as many aspects of campus life as possible. The most logical person to reach the band is a band member, the football team—a football player, the debate team—a member of the debate team. One person, no matter how strong his or her leadership and influence, cannot reach the entire campus. It's important to include the various activity groups of campus life.

Responsibilities of Core Leaders

There are two leadership models to explore.

- The Club Leadership Team Model can be used where the club chooses not to have officers in the traditional sense of club leadership. The core leadership roles are divided among four members of a leadership team.
- The Club Officer Model can be used when the club prefers a more traditional approach. In some cases, a school may require that club officers be listed as part of the requirements for campus clubs in general.

Avoid the trap of letting core leaders do all the leading. If this happens, members of the club will feel like spectators. Some may grow resentful or discouraged if they're not allowed to develop ownership as well. The temptation for a club to become the ownership of a single leader or group of leaders should be avoided. Although the core leaders are responsible for planning and organization, the entire student leadership team is involved in the club and its operation.

Note: Every core leader is responsible to select and recognize an MVP from among the other team players to co-lead the weekly meetings.

TEAM PLAYERS

In addition to core leaders, team players are active members of the club who are involved in leading Youth Alive by example and commitment. They include, but are not limited to, roles such as:

- Campus missionary
- Class representative
- Church representative
- Prayer group leader
- Event coordinator

The number of team players is determined by the size of the club. Team players are also very important in student-to-student evangelism and follow-up.

The role of a team player is to actively participate in a ministry group or serve as class representative, church representative, or some other representative for the club.



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MVPs

A most valuable player (MVP) is a team player in the club selected by a core leader to co-lead one or more Youth Alive club meetings.

- The club should have a goal to recognize many MVPs, not just a small, select group.
- When possible, the club should have a MVP for each weekly meeting.

The role of an MVP is to co-lead a meeting or special event. Core leaders are to select MVPs from the team players.

For example, during Invest week of the pre-game, the Student Missions leader will select an MVP to co-lead the meeting. The Student Missions leader and the MVP will meet beforehand to organize and plan the meeting. They share leadership of the meeting, giving the MVP ownership of the club and its mission.

Selecting MVPs:

- Rotate gender in your MVP selection as much as possible.
- Involve every ethnic background represented in the club during the school year.
- Include students from the various churches represented.
- Include students from each grade level so younger students are continually developed for leadership.

COACHING STAFF

- Youth pastors/leaders—One or more youth pastors and/or leaders who commit to be Youth Alive campus coaches for a school.
- Teachers and administrators who support the campus ministry. In a situation where a school requires or suggests a faculty advisor to supervise a campus club, this person is a vital part of the coaching staff.

A campus coach is committed to the club's success. A campus coach brings his or her experience and wisdom to benefit your club.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Financial investors—Businesses, professional people who fund campus ministry, and churches who regularly support campus ministry. Churches should consider supporting a local Youth Alive club, part of Youth Alive, a U.S. Missions ministry.
- Civic leaders who support and believe in the mission of Youth Alive.



YA Student Leaders: Leadership Team Model

General Responsibilities of Core Leaders

- Live a faithful, consistent Christian life.
- Be actively involved in a local church.
- Commit to club leadership for one full school year.
- Agree with the Statement of Faith as outlined in the Youth Alive Constitution.
- Pursue personal opportunities to present Jesus Christ to classmates.
- Participate in group activities designed to win students to Jesus Christ.
- Complete a Student Core Leader Application and share it with the campus coach, faculty advisor, or other responsible adult supporting the club.

Specific Responsibilities and Duties (Leadership Team Model)

Student Relations leader duties:

- Responsible for Infield Strategy week 1—Include (coordinate small group sessions).
- Keep accurate records of club activities.
- Responsible for the membership role, financial records, attendance records, visitor sheets, welcome, hospitality, advertising, student correspondence, and meeting location.
- Develop, recognize, and coordinate student relations ministry.
- Attend leadership meetings.
- Develop fellowship within YA.

Student Life leader duties:

- Responsible for Infield Strategy week 2—Inspire (schedule guest speaker).
- Develop, recognize, and coordinate student life ministry.
- Follow-up with members and visitors.
- Communicate with local churches regarding YA events, activities, and outreaches as necessary.
- Assume the responsibilities of the Student Missions leader in his or her absence.
- Attend leadership meetings.

Student Action leader duties:

- Responsible for Infield Strategy week 3—Involve (schedule student speaker).
- Obtain approval for special needs for meeting (i.e., a video projector, sound equipment).
- Coordinate meeting location, set-up and tear down.
- Develop, recognize, and coordinate ministry participation among club members.
- Attend leadership meetings.
- In cooperation with the Student Life leader, communicate information to local churches.
- Recruit club members to be active team players.

Student Missions leader duties:

- Responsible for Infield Strategy week 4—Invest (coordinate all activities).
- Official Youth Alive representative to all school administrative and leadership functions.
- Responsible for club charter and annual renewal.
- Oversee coordination of club meetings.
- Present potential student leadership candidates to club. Coordinate the following year's election of Youth Alive core leaders.
- Meet with other core leaders, campus club coach, and faculty advisor regularly for planning and organizing.
- Develop, recognize, and coordinate the student missions ministry groups.
- Communicate with the community as necessary (i.e., local youth ministry networks).
- Assign further tasks, as he or she deems appropriate.

Note: These duties can be modified to fit the needs of the club leadership.



YA Student Leaders: Club Officer Model

General Responsibilities of Core Leaders

- Live a faithful, consistent Christian life.
- Be actively involved in a local church.
- Commit to club leadership for one full school year.
- Agree with the Statement of Faith as outlined in the Youth Alive Constitution.
- Pursue personal opportunities to present Jesus Christ, to their classmates.
- Participate in group activities designed to win students to Jesus Christ.
- Complete a Student Core Leader Application and share it with the campus coach, faculty advisor, or other responsible adult supporting the club.

Specific Responsibilities and Duties (Club Officer Model)

Many clubs have traditional officers which consist of a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. Youth Alive recommends duties for leaders which may consist of, but are not limited to, the following:

Student Missions leader (president):

- Coordinates and schedules all activities involved in Invest week (Infield Strategy, Week 4).
- Coordinates communication between the club, faculty sponsor, and school administration.
- Serves as official YA delegate to all school administration and leadership functions.
- Keeps the mission focused.
- Develops, recognizes, and coordinates the student missions ministry groups in the campus ministry.
- Responsible for annually chartering the club with the national Youth Alive office.
- Presents potential core leadership for consideration in a specially-called club meeting for the purpose of selecting leaders.
- Oversees the coordination of club meetings.
- Meets with core leaders, club coach, and faculty advisor regularly for planning and organizing.

Student Life leader (vice-president):

- Schedules guest speakers for Inspire Week (Infield Strategy, Week 2).
- Assumes responsibilities for Student Missions leader in his or her absence.
- Responsible for follow-up of members and visitors.
- Develops, recognizes, and coordinates student life ministry groups in the campus ministry.
- Attends leadership meetings.
- Communicates with local churches in cooperation with the Student Action leader.

Student Action leader (secretary):

- Coordinates and schedules the student ministry (testimony, prayer leading) for Involve week (Infield Strategy, Week 3).
- Recruits club members to be active team players.
- Obtains approval for any special needs for the club meetings.
- Develops, recognizes, and coordinates ministry participation among the members of the club.
- Oversees meeting set-up, tear down, and club fund-raising.
- Attends leadership meetings.

Student Relations leader (treasurer):

- Coordinates small group sessions for Include Week (Infield Strategy, Week 1).
- Keeps accurate records of the club's activities.
- Responsible for membership role, student correspondence, maintenance of financial records, attendance, visitor sheets, hospitality, meeting location, and advertising.
- Develops, recognizes, and coordinates student relations ministry groups in the campus ministry.
- Develops fellowship within YA.
- Attends leadership meetings.



Student Core Leader Application

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/St/Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Campus Club/School Name: _____

Faculty Advisor/Coach: _____

Church Member: Yes No If Yes, Where: _____

I attend church: Weekly Monthly Occasionally

Your church: _____ Sr. Pastor: _____ Phone: _____

Youth Pastor/Leader: _____ Phone: _____

Why would you like to join the student core leader team? _____

What other school activities are you involved in? _____

Please write a brief testimony (what your life was like before your commitment to Christ, when you committed your life to Christ, and what your life has been like after your commitment) and attach it to the application.

Please include a letter of recommendation from your pastor or youth leader and attach it to the application.

Return this application by: _____ (date)