
SPONSORING CLUB COMMITMENT

After becoming thoroughly familiar with the Campus Civitan program, club builders should carefully consider the colleges and universities in the area where they would like to establish a Campus Civitan club. **A pledge of assistance and hands-on, active support by the sponsoring club should always be obtained.** As a group, the sponsoring club provides support in several important ways:

- ◆ Members may supply the club builders with names of prospective members attending the college or university. In such cases, those members should be able to commit a day or so of recruitment time to accompany the club builders when they call on these prospects.
- ◆ The sponsoring club should provide budgeted funds to help with some of the expenses of getting the new club chartered; however, chartering a new Campus Club need not be an expensive undertaking. From past experience we find that, depending on the distance from the sponsoring club, about \$150.00 to \$250.00 is adequate. An additional \$100.00 to \$300.00 (depending on the student enrollment of the campus) should be budgeted if you plan to run an advertisement in the school's newspaper or on the school's radio or television stations.
- ◆ The sponsoring club should have representatives at meetings during the pre-charter period and have good representation at the charter presentation. **It is most important that a representative of the sponsoring club, preferably one of the club builders, meet at least monthly with the new club,** especially in the fall when membership drives are crucial.
- ◆ **The sponsoring club must assist the Campus club in a "big brother" role.** Campus clubs are very fragile. The membership from one year to the next could have as much as an 80% turnover. The members will be enthusiastic but inexperienced. They will not be familiar with Civitan history, operational procedures, service project commitment or other elements of a Civitan club that we often take for granted. The

club's faculty advisor could change for various reasons. **In essence, the sponsoring club's most important responsibility begins after the charter.**

UNIVERSITY/ COLLEGE CONTACT

Club builders should arrange a meeting at the school with the dean of student affairs or the person handling school organizations at the college or university. The best plan for beginning a club is to already have a core group of interested students. Past Junior Civitans, along with other students, would be a good start. This will make a tremendous difference when explaining how you would like to begin pre-charter meetings of the new club.

During the meeting with the dean of student affairs, explain the entire Campus Civitan program and discuss the campus and community needs. Prepare a Campus Civitan portfolio for your presentation using the Campus brochure, *Civitan Magazine*, *Civitan – A Service Club Worthy of Your Time* brochure, Campus Civitan newsletters (*CiviTimes*) and sponsoring club literature.

Explain how a good, positive service club for students can assist the school and the community while providing valuable leadership training, personal development and career opportunities for the students. Tell the dean about our successful middle school and high school program, Junior Civitan. Be sure all school officials understand that your objective is to help students assist the school and cooperate with school officials, not to interfere in school affairs. **Assure the dean that the sponsoring club will provide members to assist the faculty advisor(s) assigned to the club.**

Explain that the club is open to all students and would follow the school's criteria in establishing its constitution and bylaws. Counsel with the dean to achieve eligibility for recognition by the Student Government Association (SGA). Clubs recognized by the SGA may apply for funding to attend international meetings and to support projects. Be sure to find out the requirements to meet the student club criteria and that of the SGA. A letter should be sent to the dean following your meeting extending appreciation for the meeting, summarize your discussions and confirm the actions you plan to take.