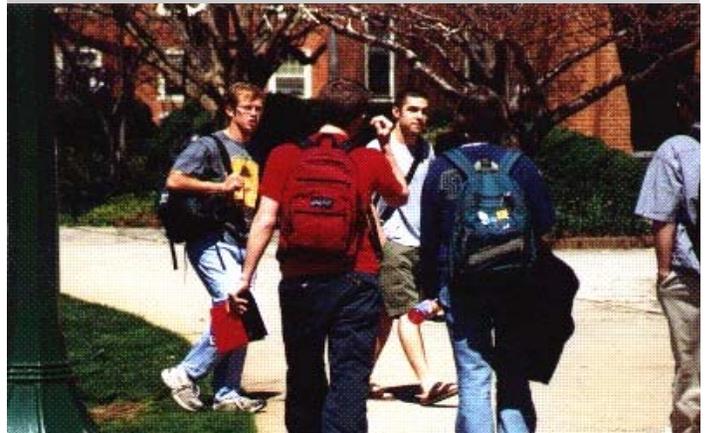


ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Starter Kit

*Helping you
get your OCF
off to a great
year!*



Orthodox Christian Fellowships are the official campus ministry effort of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA)

OCF Starter Kit

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Introduction

Hi! If you're reading this, you are interested in Orthodox Christian Fellowships (OCFs) on college and university campuses. Maybe you want to know more about them. Maybe it's time to start a *new year* for your OCF. Maybe you want to start a *new* OCF. Regardless of which situation you are in, the **OCF Starter Kit** is for you!

OCFs have been called "life-lines" for college students, providing them with opportunities to stay connected with and grow in the Faith. They also act as "mission centers" allowing members to share their faith with people who are not Orthodox Christians. In order to provide guidance for these groups, the Young Adult Ministry Directors from various Orthodox jurisdictions have come together to create this tool for you.

The **OCF Starter Kit** provides simple, easy-to-follow steps to help you start or restart an Orthodox Christian Fellowship. The techniques in this kit can be used by students, clergy, or any interested person and are based upon techniques used and developed by successful OCF groups across North America.

OK! So before you roll-up your sleeves and start trying to do step one, take a little time and read through the entire *Starter Kit*. You will probably find that you will have to tackle more than one step at a time or perhaps in a different order. Make yourself familiar with the entire process so that you can get things done faster and easier.

God bless you in your efforts!

DOCUMENT FORMAT

Sample Page

Spiritual Reflections:

A passage from the Bible, the Fathers, or some thoughts to provide you with some spiritual reassurance and vision as you work on each step in your planning.

Suggestions

These notes include ideas, hints, and warnings about situations that commonly arise during planning.

Evaluation Check-lists:

These help you determine if you have accomplished the necessary steps in the section.

Be careful, however, not to think of these as “commandments.” Your situation will determine the actions you need to take and which outcomes apply.

HOW TO USE THE OCF STARTER KIT

While the Starter Kit does have a specific order to it, you may find that you will need to jump around a bit to get things accomplished faster.

Each section has a number of areas to help you as you work. Each area is designated by a specific symbol and/or style or box.

The sections are presented on this page as they appear in the remainder of the Starter Kit.



Key Ideas: These describe core concepts about Orthodox Christian Fellowships.

Make yourself familiar with these symbols since they will help you go through the Starter Kit.



Worksheet/Appendices

These are directions to turn to various worksheets at the end of the Starter Kit.

At the end of the Starter Kit there are also a number of Appendices with helpful information such as a sample OCF constitution, a FAQ sheet, contact information for Church-wide offices, and ideas for activities.

DEFINING YOUR VISION

✠ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

(John 1:1-3)

“IF YOU DON’T HAVE A VISION YOU WILL NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE ACHIEVED.”

Before starting, it is essential that you know what you are hoping to create and accomplish. Without a vision — or more accurately, a vision based upon God — it is easy to become quickly discouraged.



What is an Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF)?

An OCF is a group of people on a university or college campus who come together for fellowship, to learn more about the Orthodox Christian Faith, to worship God, and to serve Him and His creation out of love.

To understand how an OCF should function, you can also break it down another way:

Orthodox: Defined as “true belief” or “true glory,” all things connected to the Orthodox Christian Church strive to witness to the Truth in every part of life.

Christian: For the Orthodox Christian the Truth is not an abstract or intellectual concept. It is found in the person of Jesus Christ, by Whom we identify ourselves. It is He Who reveals and demonstrates the realities of life to us.

Fellowship: Orthodox Christians understand that no one can acquire the Truth of Christ by strictly intellectual means. It is found and experienced by developing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as He reveals Himself in and through His Church. This is a communal endeavor where our relationships with others (both inside and outside the church) become our “training ground.”

OCFs are the official campus ministry effort of (SCOBA) the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas.



By becoming involved with the OCF movement you will have a great opportunity not only to meet other Orthodox Christians, have fun, learn new things, and help others; you will also have an incredible opportunity to explore your own spiritual life and grow closer to Jesus Christ. Your own spiritual state will influence how you handle both the gifts and challenges of leading an OCF.

Through it all remember what you are doing involves God, Himself. “Without Him nothing was made that was made.” Any success you will have will be because you began and ended with Him.

What do I want?

While all OCFs have certain common goals, it is important for you to consider your own reasons for starting an OCF. Take a few minutes to answer the following questions. Be honest with yourself. There are no right or wrong answers.

Do yourself a favor. Write down your answers to force yourself to be clear.

- * What are some reasons I want to start an OCF?

- * What will be the advantages of starting an OCF?

- * What challenges might I face?



✠ In the Gospel according to St. John Jesus also says, “A new commandment I give to you: that you love one another just as I have loved you.” (John 13:34)

This must be the basis for everything you do.



Afraid you don't have what it takes?

There are three pre-requisites for starting an OCF:

1. A deep sense of **helplessness**: This is a big task. You'll never get it done without help — from God and from others.
2. A real **willingness** to spend time with college students of all kinds, not just those similar to you.
3. A belief in the **importance** of what you are trying to do. OCFs are ways Christ and His Church reach out to people on campuses across North America. By working with the OCF you will be part of God's plan for His creation and will have Him to guide you and give you strength as you go.

So how did you do? Feel a little better?



Go to Worksheet 1: [Visions, Goals, and Objectives](#)

Evaluation Check-list:

- I know my personal motivations for starting an OCF.
- I have identified some initial challenges that I will face starting an OCF.
- I have an underlying vision directing my actions and the actions of those working with me to start an OCF.

SUPPORT: FINDING HELP

✚ I am with you always, to the close of the age.
(Matthew 28:20)

The SCOBA OCF Movement

The first thing you should realize is: *YOU ARE NOT ALONE!* According to Christ's own promise we can be confident that He will be with us always.

In addition, for decades the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA) has blessed the OCF movement as a part of the Church's mission here in North America. You are a part of an ever growing group of people from across North America who are dedicated to this ministry.

Time to Discover Your Support Network

Bottom line is, there are people who can help you. In fact, as the scripture says, you can't do it alone. If anyone is to accomplish anything in Christ's name, he or she must do it with other members of the Church, His Body here on earth.

So who are the other people who can join you in this ministry?

1. The leaders and starters of other OCFs across North America
2. The North American OCF Office
3. North American and National Young Adult Ministry Offices
4. Dedicated priests and lay people in nearby parishes.
5. Orthodox Christian faculty on campus
6. Other Orthodox students on campus

While the accessibility to Orthodox clergy and parish communities varies from school to school, no matter where you are there are places you can find help.



OCFs are some of the Church's most successful Inter-Orthodox efforts in North America. This is because they — by necessity — draw people from all Orthodox Christian jurisdictions regardless of ethnic background.

OCFs bring together Orthodox Christian Americans, Canadians, Russians, Romanians, Greeks, Antiochians, Serbians, Albanians, and Bulgarians (to name just a few) from across this continent and from throughout the world.

This means that there are probably a lot more potential OCF members than you may have been thinking!



Go to Appendix 1: [The North American OCF Resources Directory](#) can help you locate nearby Orthodox communities, contacts from successful OCFs across North America, and Church-wide OCF/Young Adult contacts.

At this point, you probably will have a tough time finding everything you need, but you should be able to identify enough people to get started.



LOOKING FOR ORTHODOX FACULTY

Two great places to start are the language departments and the cultural studies departments. Be open, however, to the fact that the only Orthodox faculty member might be the physics professor or one of the coaches.

LOOKING FOR ORTHODOX STUDENTS

In addition to posting flyers and asking the Chaplain's Office (if your school has one) or the Admissions Office (if your school provides a place to indicate their religious affiliation), a couple of other great places are cultural clubs and Christian groups on campus.

Finding Support

Having checked out the North American OCF Resources, your next step is to contact one of the North American Offices in appendix one about what you are trying to do.

After that, start contacting the clergy from nearby parishes as well as asking around school about any faculty who are Orthodox or who are interested in the Orthodox Church and might be willing to help out with an OCF. This is an important step when you go to register the OCF with the school administration.

In addition, you will want to begin talking to other students about what you are trying to do.



Start filling out the following worksheets:

- Worksheet 2: [Parish Listings](#)
- Worksheet 3: [Parish Contacts](#)
- Worksheet 4: [Campus Contacts](#)

Wondering what to say?

If you have clearly identified your goals for the OCF in the first section of this Starter Kit, you already know what you are trying to accomplish and how to articulate it. Use this when you are talking to others about becoming involved.

When you contact people, especially clergy and interested lay people, here are some questions to keep in mind.

- What kind of involvement do these people seem to be willing to offer?
- What interaction have they had with the campus community in the past?
- Have there been or are there any OCFs in this area?
- Have they ever had or do they know people in the area who have had experience with OCFs.

Building an OCF Team

Running an OCF effectively and efficiently takes a lot of time — something of which most college students don't have.

It is crucial that you start thinking about setting up a team of people that will help the OCF function effectively and efficiently. If you try to do it all yourself (though it may seem easier at times) you will quickly start losing track of things, frustrate your membership, and burn yourself out. Building a team will also help ensure that there are others to take over the leadership of the OCF when you graduate or can't be involved for a period of time because of your personal or academic life.

While it may take you a while before you are able to fully establish the team, keep it in mind as you go. It is also a great way to break down what tasks need to be done.



Officers and the OCF Team

When forming groups such as these and discussing how to run the group, people usually think in terms of “officers.”

While understanding the need for these roles in organized groups, the *OCF Team Approach* includes other responsibilities that can be managed by either officers or willing volunteers.

As you talk to people and begin to determine their level of interest and the areas in which they want to help, be careful not to use them only as “tools” to build the OCF. Your main interest in them should be as persons created in God's image with whom you hope to develop a friendship.

One of your goals in section one was probably about meeting new people and forming lasting friendships. Don't forget this as you plan.

In the end, the greatest rewards you will receive from your efforts with the OCF movement will be all the people you will meet and the things you were able to do together, not just with the people who had similar interests as you.



It is highly suggested at this stage to find one or more persons who can help you and eventually be part of a larger team to plan and run the OCF. These people (clergy, faculty, and fellow students) are invaluable sources of support physically, psychologically, and spiritually.

Go through the exercises in section one with them so that you all can agree on a common vision. Make sure, as well, that they are aware of the contacts you have been able to make.



The OCF Team

The following list is presented to give you an idea of the kind of tasks and support that are involved in keeping an OCF up and running. Creating a team is a goal to have for the end of the school year to help you move more smoothly into next year. It is *not* a goal for your first meeting.

- **OCF Coordinator/President:** Someone to facilitate meetings, follow-up on assigned tasks, and to serve as the main contact person for the OCF both on and off campus.
- **Treasurer:** Someone who manages OCF funds and costs.
- **Secretary:** Someone to record what is accomplished at meetings.
- **Communications Manager:** Someone to keep members informed of events and group news through newsletters, web pages, e-mail lists, phone trees, and campus publications.
- **Contacts Manager:** Someone who maintains a database of all OCF contact information for use by the communications person.
- **Calendar Coordinator:** Someone to maintain an up-to-date list of campus activities and events as well as group activities to avoid potential conflicts.
- **Food Coordinator:** Someone to coordinate the food at all events — a very important position!
- **Event Coordinator:** Someone to plan, host, or facilitate a specific event. This could and should change from event to event.
- **Resource Persons:** Persons who coordinate, lead, and help with activities based upon their interest and ability.

Remember! Do not try to finish forming this team in order to get things going. This is a process which the OCF, itself, will have to be part of to create the most effective team for its needs.

Evaluation Check-list:

- I am aware of the OCF resources available to help me.
- I have made a list of all the nearby Orthodox parishes.
- I have identified and contacted people both on campus and off who can offer help and support in starting the OCF.
- I have created a directory with names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of these people so that I can refer to this information easily and share it with others.

WORKING WITH THE CAMPUS ADMINISTRATION/COMMUNITY

✚ "Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, 'Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription — to the unknown God. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you.'

(Acts 17:22-23)

REGIONAL OCFs

While most OCFs serve a single college or university community, sometimes Orthodox Christian students from a variety of schools in an area choose to function regionally.

In these situations it is extremely important to connect the OCF with a specific parish or an Orthodox clergy brotherhood and identify a clergy advisor.

As this type of group grows it is encouraged to form individual OCFs on their respective campuses in order to increase the visibility of the Orthodox Church in the area as well as benefit from the perks of being an on-campus group.

Connecting with the Campus Community

Like Athens during the time of St. Paul, centers of learning have always been hotbeds of philosophic debate and religious pluralism. This, in fact, makes them very fertile (though not always easy) environments to preach the Gospel.

This section will take you through all the “why’s” and “how’s” of working with the campus administration, particularly the Office of Student Life or equivalent. Like Section Two, it will direct you to investigate local resources.

Why Register on Campus?

You may be asking yourself, “Why bother with all the bureaucratic red tape? It’s only going to slow me down.” It is true that this does take some time. You will find, however, that there are many benefits for registering on campus.

1. Many schools only allow registered groups to advertise on campus or in school publications.
2. Registered groups are often allocated a certain amount of school money to help them with their activities.
3. Registering on campus gives you the ability to use certain school facilities for meetings and other activities.
4. Registering on campus can give you the ability to have a booth at freshman orientation for you to promote your group.
5. Many schools offer to registered groups a mailbox, web space, and e-mail address. This way you don’t have to change contact information every time you change leadership.

The requirements may seem silly and the process difficult, but registering your OCF on campus will dramatically increase its visibility and provide resources to help it realize its goals.



Investigating the Campus Community

To make this process as easy as possible, find the following information by checking out your school's orientation materials or its website:

1. What departments or offices in the school administration are in charge of student groups and activities? (Office of Student Life, etc.)
2. Does the school have personnel, such as a Chaplain or the Admissions Office, who could help you identify Orthodox Christian students and serve as a resource for setting up a religious group.
3. Who are the contacts for these offices? What are their addresses, phone numbers, e-mails?
4. What student groups, especially religious, exist on campus that could serve as resources to help get the OCF started? (For example, a Catholic group, or cultural clubs that might attract people interested in the Orthodox Church.)
5. What are the procedures that I have to follow to have my OCF registered?
6. Is there a way to obtain a listing of Orthodox Christian students on campus?



If by this point you have not found a faculty or staff person at the university to be the advisor to the group, take the time to make this a priority. Ask the people you have contacted so far to help.

At times it is necessary to have people join your group or serve as officers "in name only" so that you can get started. Many OCFs have gotten their start this way. There is nothing wrong with this practice as long as it is a temporary situation and you are using the school resources for the purposes of developing the OCF.



Return to Worksheet 4: [Campus Contacts](#) to keep track of the information you gather.

How to Register an OCF

There are two offices you will want to contact: the Office of Student Life (or equivalent) and the Chaplain's Office (or equivalent). They will provide you with the criteria for starting a group on campus, as well as inform you about what resources are available to on-campus groups.

Requirements vary from school to school, but usually include the following:

- The names of a minimum number of students who want to be part of the OCF. This number is usually around 10-15.
- A mission statement indicating the goals of the group.
- A constitution: Usually the school has a sample for you to use as a model, which you can compare to the sample constitution at the end of the Starter Kit.
- Two or three people to serve as officers.
- A faculty or staff advisor.

Most schools have forms for you to include all this information. If you've completed the first few sections of the Starter Kit, you already have the information you need. It is only a matter of putting it in the format the school requires.



A Continent-wide Fellowship of Local Fellowships

When forming groups such as these, some school administrations are concerned about "national organizations" on campus.

The OCF Movement is a continent-wide fellowship of local campus fellowships. You can assure them that OCFs are local groups on campuses which are networked through various common projects. There is not a national "OCF" organization. Even the sample OCF constitution is just a guide to help local groups organize themselves and not a "national ruling document."

If, when reviewing the constitution, a school might require certain items to be changed, the organizers should not see this as an immediate impediment to forming a group. Someone should simply contact one of the national offices for advice.



To help you, there is a sample OCF constitution and mission statement available in the appendix of this document

A constitution, however, should not play a large role in OCF meetings since it usually does not help meet the needs of members very directly.

Too much attention to meeting procedures can quickly cause people to become disinterested.



Identifying Campus Resources

As you continue through the registration process take a good look through the materials for information about the following:

- What/Who are the contacts, guidelines, and resources for **ADVERTISING** on campus — preferably free of charge?
- What/who are the contacts, guidelines, and resources for **RESERVING CAMPUS FACILITIES AND SPACE** for meetings and activities — preferably free of charge?
- What other resources and facilities are available to all student organizations that might be helpful for the OCF (mailboxes, web space, funding, etc.)?

Other places to look for this kind of information are the school's orientation packet and website.



The following worksheets are provided to help you keep track of this information:

- Worksheet 5: [Advertising and Media Resources](#)
- Worksheet 6: [Rooms and Resources](#)

Evaluation Check-list:

- I have made and recorded all the appropriate contacts on campus.
- I know what resources are available to me on campus.
- I am aware of the rules and regulations concerning student organizations.
- I have identified the required number of persons to start the OCF as well as a faculty/staff advisor.
- I have completed and submitted all the appropriate materials for registering the OCF on campus.
- I have notified one of the National OCF Office about my group and have submitted information for the online OCF Directory (www.ocf.net).

BUILDING THE FELLOWSHIP

✠ Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. And they said to one another, "Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked with us on the road and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

(Luke 24: 30-32)

Making Contacts and Finding Members

As you make contact with people who express interest in the OCF keep in mind that to minister to one another as Christ does is to recognize their needs and respond to them. The Gospels are full of accounts when Christ healed and spoke to people in different ways according to their needs and spiritual readiness. Be open to people's needs as they become involved in OCF and try to avoid pushing too many expectations on them.



The Hierarchy of Needs

To help discern people's needs, review this "hierarchy of needs"

1. **Survival:** The need for basic items such as food. Some very successful OCFs often respond to this with what they call the *ministry of food* and do everything they can to provide *GOOD* food at times like the beginning of the school year, late-night during exam periods, etc.. Do not be discouraged by people who seem to only come for the free meal and goodies.
2. **Security:** Closely related to survival, this is the need to feel safe and to know they are not alone. To fulfill this need a person should feel that they are safe to be themselves and will be accepted. Be sure to appreciate a person's involvement, whatever it may be. Instead of referring to people as "marginal," it is better to think of them as "on the threshold." It is important for people to not feel that they will be harassed if they miss a meeting or can't come to a Church service.
3. **Belonging:** Once a person's primary needs are met and they feel suitably comfortable, they feel a need to belong, to be a part of what is going on, to be "a member." This is when people come for the social aspect of activities and begin to readily identify themselves as OCF members.
4. **Creativity:** This is the need to be creative, to learn, to be challenged, and to grow. Focus is on personal growth and "growing" the OCF. At this point education and service activities such as Bible studies, retreats, visits to soup-kitchens, etc. are important.
5. **Vocational Realization:** With creativity comes the need to actualize one's own calling in the ministry of the Church. Here people see the OCF as part of the larger Church and look for their own place in the bigger picture. These people often attend seminary and/or become very active in a parish, either at school or afterwards.



This "hierarchy of needs"

should provide you with a basic understanding of what it takes to run a successful OCF. OCFs like any student group, succeed or fail based upon how well or poorly they meet their constituent's needs.

To fully appreciate this hierarchy of needs, realize that you, yourself, need these things fulfilled. Your job will be increasingly difficult if you don't look after your own needs.

You need to eat, to have a sense of security, to feel that you belong, to be creative, and to realize your own vocation.

Go through each of the 5 items and ask yourself these two questions:

1. How are my needs being met in this area?
2. How can OCF help me to meet this need?



PLACES/WAYS TO FIND NEW MEMBERS

1. Organize a booth at student orientations, student life and club fairs
2. Talk with the Chaplain's Office, Inter-Faith Center, etc. about inviting a known Orthodox Christian speaker to visit the campus. For suggestions contact one or more of the Young Adult Ministries Offices
3. Check with the Admissions Office or Chaplains Office (if there is one) to see if students are given the option to indicate their religious preference and if a list is available. Remember, even if they do have a list like this, they may not have "Orthodox Christian" as a choice.
4. Visit cultural groups such as the Hellenic, Russian, Arabic clubs, etc. and bring some flyers about the OCF and upcoming events.
5. Advertise in every way you possible can (newsletters, school newspapers, university and dormitory billboards bulletin boards.)
6. One very successful OCF starts out the beginning of each year making and delivering cookies with OCF information to new students

Making Contacts (cont.)

Now that you have a sense of the various needs potential members will have, it is important to prepare yourself for the inevitable. If you want the OCF to take off and grow then you are going to have to talk to people about it. Flyers and ads help, but the most effective method of advertising is personal contact. People like to have a face to go with a name. And at the start you ARE the OCF. So this means that you really have to know what you are trying to do and why it is important for other people to be a part of it.

Above all, remember, don't approach people thinking of them only as potential new members who can make the OCF bigger. Approach them as people made in God's image and likeness with whom you want to develop a friendship.

The idea is to think in terms of inviting people to join in this opportunity, not selling a product.

Should I say anything?

Whether you meet someone in person, on the phone, or in a chat room, it is easy to become uneasy about discussing the OCF. Keep in mind two things:

1. If you do the OCF right, it should be something that they really enjoy. You are not trying to make people eat liver. (No offense to all you liver lovers!)
2. If you do the OCF right, this is something that they really need. Everyone needs support and friendship with people who share similar beliefs and values.



The One-Year Commitment

A task such as this usually takes time and persistence to show any real "results." If you really want to start an OCF from scratch or reactivate an inactive OCF, make the commitment to work on this for 1 full school year. By the end of the year you will be in a better position to evaluate the potential success of the OCF, and will have already gathered enough experience to carry on in the right direction.

Flyers

Most people today are “audio/visual” and need something to look at as you talk to them about the OCF. Creating a general flyer about the OCF which describes its goals, times and locations of meetings, contact information, etc. is a powerful tool for reinforcing your point. A flyer is also a reminder for them of your conversation when they get home. Keep a bunch with you at all times.



Things to include on an OCF flyer

- NAME OF SCHOOL Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF)
- Summary statement of the group’s purpose of: (i.e., Witnessing to the Orthodox Christian Faith through fellowship/fun, education, worship, and service.)
- One or two events/activities you are planning/hoping to have (Barbeque, Bible Study, Vespers service, Service Project, etc.).
- Regular meeting times and places. Choose a time and place. As the OCF grows, you can always change it.
- Contact information (Yours and one or two other people’s who are willing to be a contact.)

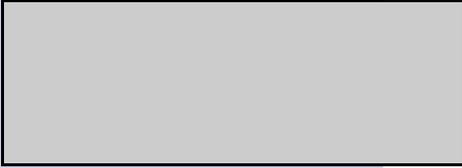


Go to Worksheet 7: [Student Directory](#) to keep track of the people’s information as they express interest in the OCF.



Note Pad

It’s a good idea keep a note pad and pen with you at all times so that you can get people’s information when they express an interest in the OCF.



Developing a Schedule

Planning ahead is always tentative. It is difficult to predict the many changes and challenges that you will face in the days and months ahead. Don't use this as an excuse to avoid planning.

Remember, if a goal is to gather people for an ongoing OCF, then there has to be thorough planning and consistency. The death of many a group comes from poorly planned activities that happen in starts and stops.

As the leader of the group it is your responsibility to provide vision and direction. Before going into the first meeting, you need to have an idea of the types of schedules the OCF could and should adopt.

Once a Week

Some OCFs which meet every week attract and keep members by focusing on a different aspect of the F.E.W.S each week.

- The first week of the month is always a fun/fellowship event.
- The second week is a bible study, lecture series, or retreat type of thing.
- The third week is an akathist, molieben, compline, matins, or vespers on campus. Often, these are readers services, since it can be difficult to find clergy who can come on campus.
- The fourth week is some type of service project.

In this way, people with different needs and expectations can all have something to look forward to each month.



Keeping the Balance: The F.E.W.S

OCFs can easily get off to the wrong start if they become too focused on one type of activity. People are different and often have different needs. While some people might be really excited about a regular Bible study, other people are looking for opportunities just to meet other Orthodox friends. There are four basic areas that you should keep in mind as the OCF plans its schedule.

- **Fellowship:** People need opportunities to simply "be" with others. There is nothing un-Christian about having fun with friends. In fact, we are supposed to develop our relationships with others. As the scripture says, "It is not good for man to be alone."
- **Education:** While many people are drawn to OCFs to meet people, a lot of people look for a place to learn about and grow in their faith. Retreats, lectures, Bible studies, and book groups, are all ways people can learn more about the Christ and His Church.
- **Worship:** It is at the very center of who we are as Orthodox Christians. A Christian by definition lifts up his/her heart in praise and prayer to Christ. All activities should begin and end with prayer and all schedules should include worship services, even if they are readers' services (akathists, moliebens, vespers, matins, complines, etc.).
- **Service:** As Christians we are supposed to love others since God first loved us. Christ Himself says that if you don't care for others, you don't care for God (Matthew 25).

So what do you want the OCF to be like? Take a little time to dream about what you want, and to evaluate your situation. This will help you develop a schedule that is reliable and exciting.

How often should the OCF meet (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly?)

Based upon conversations you have had, what appears to be good days, times, and locations for basic meetings? (Remember, there is no perfect time and location for everyone. The idea is to do your best to accommodate most people)

- Day/Time

- Location

What are some things you would like the OCF to do?

-

-

-

-

-

⊕ So whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them; for this is the law and the prophets.

(Matthew 7:12)



Guidelines for Planning

As you start to jot down ideas, keep the following things in mind:

- Plan with the Church calendar in mind, building an awareness of the cycle of feasts and fasts.
- Get a copy of any campus-wide events on campus that could conflict with what you are hoping to do.
- Try to have gatherings on campus or at a place where people who don't have cars can get to.
- Try to come up with one day and time for meetings (i.e., Thursdays at 7 pm). People's lives get frantic. It helps when they don't have to think too much to remember when meetings are.
- Have some activities regularly on a different day than the one you chose above, since there could easily be people who are interested in the OCF but are busy on the regular meeting day (i.e., first week of the month Bible study on Thurs, second week of the month trip to the coffee house on Wed, etc.)
- Week nights tend to work best for most students. At the beginning save the weekend for Vespers, Divine Liturgy and special trips.
- For meetings and discussions choose locations that are conducive to people being able to talk with others comfortably and that allow food.



Attendance

Frustrations about attendance are by far more damaging to the ongoing growth of an OCF than low attendance itself. Never be visibly upset about a low turn-out at a meeting or activity.

There is a saying that, "God only gives you what you can handle." The few who did come may be all that you can handle at that moment.

Remind yourself that each person there is a gift from God and treat them accordingly.

Follow the example of the Hospitality of Abraham (Gen 18) when he entertained three strangers who later revealed themselves as angels.

Proceed with the knowledge that your efforts are being prayed for and that it is God who makes things grow. We do the planting and the nourishing.



The following worksheets are provided to help you develop your schedule and plan events.

- Worksheet 8: [Monthly Planner](#)
- Worksheet 9: [Event Planning Sheet](#)



Planning for the year

As much as possible, while allowing for flexibility, try to plan for an entire school year. If you are using rooms on campus often you will need to reserve them months in advance since you will be in competition with other student groups. In addition, the earlier you start to communicate your activities, the better chance you will have of gathering more people.

Worksheet 8 is a planning guide for one month. Make copies of this page for each month you are hoping to have activities and draft a schedule for yourself. You can present these as a topic for discussion at your first meeting.

Elements of positive events/activities

There are 4 elements that go into any creative activity that can improve its quality and success, regardless of how you may measure those things. They should be:

Active: If education, it engages the learner to interact with information, either through directed discussions or other personal involvement with the topic. If service it challenges the participant physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually. If worship, the person is provided with opportunities to actively participate.

Significant: If education, it can be related to their life experience and situation. If service, it provides an outreach beyond the OCF. If worship, services should be held that connect campus life to parish and Church life as a whole, following the festal cycles.

Open: If education, it allows the participant the freedom not to know the “right answer” or to disagree. If service, it allows people with a variety of abilities to participate. If worship, it is conducted primarily in a language that is common to the participants.

Connected: All events should include elements of fellowship, education, worship, and service.



Locations

It is strongly suggested for OCFs on individual colleges to have most meetings on campus and not at a nearby parish, someone’s home, etc..

The reason for this is two-fold:

1. Transportation can become an obstacle for people becoming part of the OCF.
2. At the beginning, the campus is a neutral location that provides a certain sense of security. People can feel uneasy about entering an unfamiliar church and may not feel as able to be themselves. As things grow, this can change.

Fostering Fellowship among Members

Since OCFs are Orthodox Christian *Fellowships*, it is important to do everything possible to nurture the development of relationships among people participating in the OCF. These relationships will be the litmus test of whether or not your OCF is “successful.”

Your guiding principle should be our Lord’s command to “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” Keep in mind a few questions as you plan all gatherings and activities.

1. What would I want to experience when visiting the OCF for the first time?
2. What would make me more likely to return and participate in other activities?
3. What would make me less likely to return?
4. If I knew nothing about the Orthodox Christian Faith, what would I want my first experience to be like?

You may wish to have this as an item for discussion at a meeting.



Some Keys to Nurturing Fellowship

- **Create an environment** that is open to suggestions and new ideas
- **Truly listen** when people share their suggestions and ideas.
- Be sure to **allow fellowship time** during every activity. Either as a break or at the beginning or end, put it into the schedule.
- **Utilize icebreakers.** Everyone hates them, but they are very important for groups with people who don’t know each other. It can be as simple as having everyone say their name and a hobby they have or a movie that they have seen recently. Or, it can something more active like “human knots,” where you break into groups of 6 to 8 people have each person hold hands with two different people who are not next to them and have them “untangle” themselves.
- **Try to offer good food.** You cannot underestimate the importance of having good food at your activities. It shouldn’t be expensive, just good. We all know how much everyone enjoys the cafeteria food. From the beginning of time, food has always been a way to make people feel welcome and comfortable.

Evaluation Check-list:

- I understand the various needs/ expectations that people are looking for in the OCF.
- I have started a directory of potential members.
- I have prepared a flyer that I can use to promote the OCF as I talk with people.
- I understand the different kinds of activities that are needed to keep a balanced schedule
- I have outlined a possible schedule for the OCF.
- I know some of the basic elements that can make activities successful.

RUNNING EFFECTIVE MEETINGS

✚ "So every sound tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears evil fruit. A sound tree cannot bear evil fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will know them by their fruits."

(Matt. 7: 17-20)

What a meeting should be like

In this passage Christ is speaking about false prophets. Many people think they are speaking and acting as Christians, but are in fact not being "true" to the Christian Faith. The goal of a group and therefore, its meetings must be to seek God's will and the benefit of others, and not personal goals. When an OCF meets, plans, and acts as Christians, then their efforts will draw people together. If an OCF is not proceeding as Christians, whatever group of people it gathers and builds will turn against itself and divide its members.

There are certain steps to running a fruitful meeting:

1. Define and write the topics that need to be discussed.
2. Clarify the objectives and focus of each topic.
3. Be able to distinguish the important from the unimportant, and the "good fruit" from the "bad fruit."
4. Begin and end with prayer.
5. The first time you discuss a topic go around the group asking for input while suspending judgment.
6. Take a break to let ideas "gel" and to allow people's minds the opportunity to think in a relaxed manner.
7. The second time you discuss a topic analyze, decipher, and decide (A.D.D.) how the group should proceed.
8. Record your decisions and be accountable to each other for those decisions you make while avoiding pointing fingers.



The Ministry of Food

Food is a very necessary, useful, and effective method of welcoming people. When good food is served, it helps people feel more "at home."

Try to provide quality food or snacks at your meetings. You may even want to connect your first meeting to a back-to-school barbeque or other type of meal.

A wise man once said, "If you feed them, they will come."



Aspects for a Fruitful Meeting

A fruitful meeting...

- Seeks and acknowledges God's presence at the meeting
- Tries to discern God's will when making all decisions
- Utilizes the "Keys to Nurturing Fellowship" on the previous page.
- Is a creative experience seeking to "explore" rather than "judge", and to "consider" rather than "criticize."



It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.

(Acts 1:7-8)

Being an Effective Leader

As a leader in this effort, thoughts and concerns about the success of the OCF may become upsetting and drag you down. It is difficult to predict what type of success you will have with the OCF. You know what your hopes and goals are, and have probably already faced a number of challenges. Remember, “It is not for you to know times and seasons. “ God will reveal His plan as He knows it will benefit you and what you are trying to accomplish in His name.

Instead of worrying about the future, try to focus on aligning your own current motivations and actions with Christ’s. Try to develop a relationship with Him that permeates your thoughts, actions, habits, and dreams. For the Christian, that is the main task of any leader.



Don’t Interfere with the Holy Spirit!

While it is crucial for a leader to know and be committed to what he or she is trying to accomplish, to make thorough plans, and to lead with confidence, he or she must remain aware of and open to the movement of the Holy Spirit.

Christian leaders often find that their plans and goals have to take a side step to what the Lord is presenting to them through a specific situation, or person.

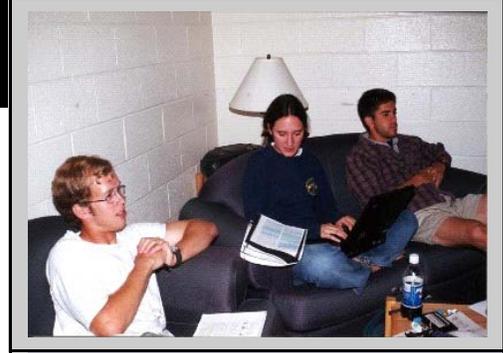
When leaders are able to see these situations as an opportunity for growth and not as a “crisis” they engender a sense of stability among the group and prepare it for growth.



Basic Leadership Traits

A leader...

1. Initiates
2. Provides ideas and structures
3. Takes the risk of failure
4. Elicits trust
5. Is a good listener and responds to problems by listening
6. Always accepts and empathizes, never rejects
7. Is genuinely interested in the followers
8. Has a sense for the unknowable and foresees the unforeseen
9. Is a good communicator
10. Is naturally intuitive



The First Meeting

By this point you have already found out the rules about advertising on campus (posting flyers, putting ads in the campus newspaper, or tv/radio station, etc.). You have also spoken to a number of people about the OCF and identified some prospective members.

You are ready for your first meeting. Be sure to have a defined beginning and ending time which is listed on your flyer. If there are a lot of questions, try to schedule a follow-up meeting to address them or encourage people to speak to you personally.

Above all, try not to worry. God provides.



An Agenda for the First Meeting

- Opening Prayer
- Introductions/Icebreaker/Fun Activity
- Welcome and Introduction of Leader(s) [and OCF Chaplain if blessed to have one]
- Goals of the OCF
- Description and Brainstorming of Activities
- Proposed Schedule for the Coming Year (Meetings and Activities)
- Need for and Role of Volunteers/Team Members
- Questions and Answers
- Closing Prayer

⊕ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

(Matt 18:19- 20)

Planning Subsequent Meetings

Meeting Agenda Ideas

Opening Prayer

Introductions of new people (if any)

Goal of Meeting

For example:

- To update everyone on past and future activities;
- To make a preliminary schedule for the year;
- To decide on how we are going to celebrate Father and his wife's anniversary.

Reading/Approval of Minutes/Notes from Last Meeting

(Does that sound like what happened? Any corrections? Etc.)

Old Business

Report on finances

Report on previous activities

Report about upcoming activities already in the planning.

Be sure to provide the opportunity for discussion on all of the above.

New Business

For example:

- New ideas for activities/projects.

Assignment of tasks.

Evaluation

How is the group doing in fulfilling the goals of the OCF?

Closing Prayer

NOTE:

Many groups also include a 30-minute "hot-topic" discussion during their meetings on items such as Drugs at School, HIV and AIDS, Being Orthodox in non-Orthodox world, Dating as an Orthodox Christian, The Place of Reason in faith, Career, Success, and Future, etc. Different members present the premise of the topic and the group picks up from there.

This provides an official venue for people to talk about things that they might not have the opportunity to talk about elsewhere and increases the "importance of the meeting" for participants thereby aiding attendance. It also helps to create a caring and trusting environment within the group



Selecting a meeting time and location

- Don't assume that all meetings must be at 7:30 PM. 9:00 PM can often be a much better time for students since many are more ready to take a study break later than earlier.
- Always check a room before deciding on it. Be sure the room is not subject to disturbances (i.e. near a TV lounge), well ventilated, and well lit.



Evaluation Check-list:

- I understand the purpose of having meetings and certain key elements that are necessary for keeping meetings productive.
- I understand that my success as a leader is directly related to my relationship to Christ.
- I and others have booked the location and time of the 1st meeting, advertised the meeting on campus, arranged for food and established the agenda .

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

✠ I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the Gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

(Philippians 1:3-6)



We are stewards: all we have belongs to God.

While leaders must be truly committed it is essential that he or she understand that the OCF does not belong to him or her.

Any success the OCF has had has come from God and, therefore, people should see themselves as stewards (caretakers) of a special gift and not owners who have “rights.”

When and how to delegate

It is always difficult to leave something you have worked hard for, to someone else. St. Paul faced this situation with the communities he started. Ultimately, if you want the OCF to continue after you leave, you will need to start delegating responsibilities to others.



Steps of Delegating

When delegating, often people tend to either not let go at all, or to let go all at once before the other person really understands what it is they are supposed to do. Either situation leaves new people frustrated. There is a basic 4-step approach to delegating tasks and responsibilities to others. After you have identified someone:

1. **I do it you watch:** Try and give them a chance to see you do it. They probably won't do it exactly like you did, but it gives them a base of experience to work off of so that they know “it can be done.”
2. **We do it together:** Next time do the task/responsibility with the person so that you be there for hands on training. It is very important at this stage that you remain open to the other person's ideas and concerns.
3. **You do it, I watch:** The third time the task/responsibility needs to be done, have them do it, while you remain available for any on-site questions. AFTER, the task is accomplished you can also offer suggestions that make it go easier for the person.
4. **You do it, I do something else:** Now is the time to let go. Let them do it and you go and do something else.

While it may be difficult at times to find the time to go through all 4 separate steps, keep the basic outline in mind. You may combine a couple steps at some point, and that's ok.



Helping OCF Continue Next Year

In addition to good delegating, here are some tips to help you keep your OCF going strong from year to year.

- **Keep Organized Files**

Keep a good set of files with all the information you have found (completed worksheets, materials outlining campus procedures, etc.) so that you don't have to look for information you had already gathered.

- **Secure the OCF's registration for next year.**

You worked hard to get your OCF started this year. Why go through that all over again next year? Make sure next year's "paper work" is all in order before you leave for the summer.

- **Materials for Orientation**

Being registered on campus usually allows you to have materials available at new student orientation, and/or the schools "club fair," or equivalent. A flyer on your OCF, a preliminary schedule of events for the year, and a list of nearby parishes will show potential new members (and their parents) that OCF is a solid group that takes its role seriously. Ultimately, remember that students are looking for something stable on which they can rely.

- **Reception for New Students**

In similar fashion to the above, a reception for new students with a short presentation on your OCF's goals and activities provides new students with a way to get to know about your OCF as well as a chance to meet people on campus.

- **End of Year Party**

Have some type of fun gathering at the end of the year to leave everyone wanting more. Have a short discussion about what you, as a group, have accomplished and what you could do next year.

- **Keep in Touch**

Throughout the summer, once a month or so try and keep in touch with key persons. Don't turn every conversation into an OCF meeting, though. Touching base with people and finding out how their summer is going, helps build solid working and personal relationships.

Evaluation Check-list:

- I know some key people to invite into leadership positions for next year.
- I have begun the process of delegation with them on specific tasks/responsibilities
- I understand that next year's OCF will be different than this year's OCF.
- We have established that the OCF will be a registered campus organization next year
- We have materials to distribute at Orientation
- We have begun the preliminary planning for a reception for new students.

DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION

Development Credit

Written by Fr. Michael Anderson and Fr. David Subu, Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Orthodox Church in America (<http://yya.oca.org>)

Materials used in producing this document

Campus Ministry Guidelines originally published by the Campus Commission of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas

The following articles from the *Resource Handbook for Lay Ministries*, published by the Orthodox Church in America (www.oca.org/pages/min_orgs/Resource-Handbook/index.html)

- Starting an Orthodox Campus Fellowship, by Mark Stokoe
- Let a Hundred Flowers Bloom, by Peter Mikuliak
- Campus Ministry: a Warm Shoulder, by Diane Farah

Worksheets

Worksheet 1 — Visions Goals Objectives

This page is a tool to help you clarify your personal and group vision for your OCF. Make copies of this page so you can do your own personal brainstorming and then hand out copies and use it again when you have your organization meeting

Words that describe the OCF I/we want to create

Goals I/we want the OCF to accomplish

(For example: have a monthly bible study, help people in need, expose more people to the Orthodox Faith)

Objectives

Objectives are participant-oriented accomplishments. They should be things that someone outside the group can determine whether or not they have been accomplished. (For example, “By being part of this OCF for a year we will be able to attend a Church service on campus once a week,” or “participate in an annual service project, make Orthodox friends on campus.”)

By being part of this OCF, I/we will be able to...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Worksheets

Worksheet 2 — Parish Listings

Area Parishes (make additional copies if necessary)

Name of Parish : _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

Name of Priest: _____

Jurisdiction: _____

Distance from Campus (Directions): _____

Name of Parish : _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

Name of Priest: _____

Jurisdiction: _____

Distance from Campus (Directions): _____

Worksheets

Worksheet 3 — Parish Contacts

Contact People in Nearby Parishes (make additional copies as necessary)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Cell: _____

Parish Affiliation: _____

Areas of assistance (spiritual advisor, food, transportation, etc)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Cell: _____

Parish Affiliation: _____

Areas of assistance (spiritual advisor, food, transportation, etc)

Worksheets

Worksheet 4 — Campus Contacts

Contact People on Campus (make additional copies as necessary)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Cell: _____

Circle One: Faculty Staff Student

Areas of participation (faculty advisor, officer, team member, etc) and/or abilities/interests (campus newspaper contact, plays in campus band, facilitate bible study, web design and maintenance, etc.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Cell: _____

Circle One: Faculty Staff Student

Areas of participation (faculty advisor, officer, team member, etc) and/or abilities/interests (campus newspaper contact, plays in campus band, facilitate bible study, web design and maintenance, etc.)

Worksheets

Worksheet 5 — Advertising and Media Resources

Newspapers/Newsletters/Websites (make additional copies as necessary)

Name of Paper, etc : _____

Name of Contact:: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Cell: _____

Number of and Projected Publication Dates of Issues: _____

Deadlines to submit articles: _____

Other Information (cost, etc.): _____

Radio Stations (make additional copies as necessary)

Name and Frequency of Station : _____

Name of Contact:: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Cell: _____

Deadlines to submit articles: _____

Other Information (cost, etc.) : _____

Worksheets

Worksheet 5 — Advertising and Media Resources

(Continued)

Policies for posting and distributing flyers

Name of Contact: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Cell: _____

Other Information (where can you post, size of flyer, etc.) : _____

Worksheets

Worksheet 6 — Rooms and Resources

Reserving Rooms (make additional copies as necessary)

Name of Building (if applicable) : _____

Name of Contact: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Cell: _____

Deadlines to reserve rooms: _____

Other Information (different types of rooms, preferred rooms, etc.): _____

On-Campus Mailboxes

Name of Contact: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Cell: _____

Other Information (cost, etc.) : _____

Webspace

Name of Contact: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Cell: _____

Other Information (# of e-mails, amount of space allowed, cost, etc.) : _____

Worksheets

Worksheet 7 — Student Directory

Name : _____ Year/Program: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Province: _____
Zip/Postal Code: _____ E-Mail: _____
Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Name : _____ Year/Program: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Province: _____
Zip/Postal Code: _____ E-Mail: _____
Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Name : _____ Year/Program: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Province: _____
Zip/Postal Code: _____ E-Mail: _____
Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Name : _____ Year/Program: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Province: _____
Zip/Postal Code: _____ E-Mail: _____
Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Name : _____ Year/Program: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Province: _____
Zip/Postal Code: _____ E-Mail: _____
Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Worksheets

Worksheet 8 — Monthly Planner

A Guide to Planning

As you develop your schedule, this chart will help you to see if you are maintaining a healthy balance of different types of activities. For each month include the name, and date of the activity under its main purpose (F.E.W.S.).

	FELLOWSHIP	EDUCATION	WORSHIP	SERVICE
September				
October				
November				
December				
January				
February				
March				
April				
May				
June				
Summer				

Worksheets

Worksheet 9 — Event Planning Sheet

Check-list for Organizing an Event

1. Include members in the planning process.
2. Begin planning ahead of time (6 months)
3. Determine the goals the group hopes to accomplish by each activity and how this fits into their schedule of activities as a whole

4. Receive the blessing of your Spiritual and Faculty Advisors
5. Determine requirements of event (advertising, food, schedule including beginning and ending times, supervision needing, materials, transportation, etc.)

6. Create a schedule of deadlines for each identified requirement.
7. Delegate responsibilities to others. (Offer short descriptions in writing to avoid confusion.)
8. Try to schedule activities at the same times each year to create a schedule on which youth and parents can rely.

A Guide to Planning— an Example

This is presented as only one example. Of course, chapters may wish to do than one activity per season. The blank version on the previous page is provided to help you plan for the year.

	FELLOWSHIP	EDUCATION	WORSHIP	SERVICE
Fall		Back to School Retreat "Choices"		
Winter			St. Andrew Celebration (Plan, Advertise, Sing)	
Spring				Volunteer at a Food Pantry
Summer	Overnight camping trip			

APPENDIX: RESOURCES DIRECTORY

North American OCF Office

PO Box 249
Boston, MA 02130
800-919-1OCF
Fax 617-850-1464
Website: www.ocf.net
E-Mail: info@ocf.net

See also...

Orthodox Church in America

Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries
PO Box 675
Syosset, NY 11791
Tel. 516.922.0550 ext 141
Website: <http://yya.oca.org>
E-Mail: youth@oca.org

Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America

Department of Campus Ministry
RR1 Box 307
Bolivar, PA 15923
Tel. 724.238.9565
Website: www.antiochian.org/CampusMinistry/
E-Mail: Avcamp@antiochian.org

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

8 E. 79th Street, New York, NY 10021
Tel. 212.570.3561
Website: www.youth.goarch.org
E-mail: youthoffice@goarch.org



APPENDIX: MODEL CONSTITUTION

✚ Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. And they said to one another, "Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked with us on the road and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

(Luke 24: 30-32)

**Download the Model Constitution
at www.ocf.net.**

Reminder

- Constitutions exist to provide a basic direction of the group as well as show school authorities that the group is committed to its goals
- Only in the most dire or circumstances should it be used as a weapon to constrict members

APPENDIX: FAQ SHEET

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. *What does OCF stand for?*

A. OCF stands for Orthodox Christian Fellowship

Q. *Do you have to be Orthodox to be part of an Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF)?*

A. You do not have to be an Orthodox Christian to be part of an Orthodox Christian Fellowship. You only need to be interested in learning more about the Orthodox Christian Faith and getting to know and spending time with other people interested in the Church.

Q. *How many OCF's are there?*

A. The OCF network is constantly growing and changing. At the time of the publication of this starter kit there were over 175 known OCFs across America. For a currently listing go to www.ocf.net and check out our online directory.