I'm 4Life… Now What?

5 Steps to Becoming a Y4Life Messenger

1 • Prepare

Learn about student group policies and procedures at your school. Do you need

a faculty advisor? Do you need a constitution or officers? Can you use campus facilities? Are you eligible for funding? Your student government or student activities office should have this information.

Research the Life situation in your school and community. Is there an abortion clinic? What about a pregnancy resource center? Is there a suicide prevention group? Do other organizations exist that support 4Life activities? Find out how and where you can partner with others and direct efforts in the most effective way.

2 • Mentor

Seek a mentor or advisor to give you spiritual support and advice as you start your group. This should be someone from your school who is passionate about life, while maintaining the Gospel motivation that is the hallmark of Y4Life, the youth branch of Lutherans For Life.

Y4Life has staff dedicated to providing guidance and mentorship to students as they start Y4Life Teams. Contact Director of Y4Life, Michelle Bauman, at michelle@y4life.org for more information!

3 • Recruit

Start by recruiting a small group of students who are passionate about life, Gospel-motivated, and willing to work with you to start the team.

Identify these students by networking with other student organizations and friend groups, local pro-life organizations, or church groups with similar values and ideas. You can also use flyers, set up recruitment tables, participate in an interest fair, hand out information and gather names in high-traffic areas, or use an interest link on social media.

Make sure to get permission from your school before posting flyers or other advertisements.

4•Legitimize

Once you have a small group of students interested in starting a Y4Life Team, hold your first meeting to begin making decisions about the group.

At the first meeting, decide on governance for your group. Make sure to follow your school's guidelines for student organizations. You may need to find an advisor and create a constitution.

Select your **Y4Life** Team's leaders. In the future, you may wish to elect your leaders, but at the beginning, it may be more effective to appoint leadership and officers.

After the first meeting, take the necessary steps to become an official student organization. This process may take some time, so start as soon as possible!

Soon after your first meeting, register your team's leaders for a Y4Life College Leadership Retreat. This training will help you formulate both the focus and mission for your Y4Life Team as well as provide necessary resources for success! Contact Michelle to register.

5 • Expand

After officially starting your group and making the initial decisions, the real work begins!

Start actively advertising your group around your school and community, using flyers, social media, and other methods, such as advertising on school computers, creating bulletin boards, and participating in activity fairs.

Begin planning your first event. Events fall into one or more of four categories: **service, celebration, worship, or education**. A service project, such as a clothing drive, supports life; a celebration, such as a community baby shower, rejoices over life; a worship service, such as a Life Chapel Service, affirms that God is the Creator of life; and an educational event teaches students about life issues.

Make sure your group meets regularly to plan activities and host events. Each meeting should be part business and part activity or discussion. Y4Life has a Speakers Bureau available - and hosting a speaker at a meeting is a great way to get people involved. For a list of possible discussion topics and life issues, visit Y4life.org.

Eventually, your group will need to fundraise in order to continue operating. For exciting fundraising ideas, contact Y4Life or check out our fundraising infographic at Y4life.org or on Instagram @LFLY4Life.

Starting and maintaining a Y4Life Team on a college campus can be a lot of work, but it is work worth doing!

As you share a Gospel-motivated message which supports life, the Holy Spirit not only blesses those you serve but also works to transform heads, hearts, and minds for LIFE!

Resources for Y4Life Teams

- Y4Life: www.y4life.org
- Lutherans For Life: www.lutheransforlife.org
- Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life: michelle@y4life.org
- Snapchat, Tik Tok, and Instagram: @lfly4life
- YouTube: Y4Life
- Facebook: Lutherans For Life
- Twitter: @ForLifers
- Y4Life Blog: www.y4life.org/blog
- Search "Youth4Life Podcast" wherever you listen to podcasts.

- Chats 4 Life
- What about … Mondays?
- Y4Life in Washington, D.C.
- Y4Life Summit
- Y4Life College Leadership Retreat

For more information on forming your own **Y4Life Team**, please contact Michelle Bauman, Director of **Y4Life**, at michelle@y4life.org.

www.y4life.org • www.lutheransforlife.org
888.364.LIFE (5433)