



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)



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?

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.



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.