

Starting Student Builders Game Plan

There's no one "right" way to get it started. Every situation is different, and you have insights and experiences that no doubt I don't. But having started, led, and watched such groups for years, here's how I'd go about it. Let me know how I can help.

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PRELIMINARY STEPS

- Pray that God would bless and guide your effort. Repeat regularly in the days to come.
- Contact us at Fuller Center headquarters to let us know of your interest (contact info above)
- Talk to your friends to see who's interested. Find 2 or more others who are committed to helping getting it off the ground.
- Find out what your school or university requires to start a group.
- Talk to at least one faculty member about what you have in mind. They may have some insights that will help you, and this conversation will help you start laying the groundwork for finding an advisor.
- Plan some kind of initial event – go work with the local FCH for a Saturday, build across the US over a spring break, organize an international FCH Global Builders trip, or have everyone interested join us on our monthly conference call. Whatever you choose, the point is to do something together that helps everyone get a feel for what The Fuller Center is about.
 - To promote the event, launch a facebook group and invite all your friends. This is crucial to begin building your list of those interested in the work.
 - Invite a few faculty members to be part of it.
- At that first event, be sure to tell everyone your vision for the organization and ask them to help you pull it off.
- Remain in touch with us at Fuller Center headquarters.



THE DIRTY WORK

- Begin tackling university paperwork
 - Most schools require you to write a charter/ constitution/ bylaws. We've made this part easy by providing a sample set. Edit them as you see fit, but don't let over-analyzing of the bylaws bog you down. You can always change them later.
- Ask a faculty member to be your advisor
- Form a founding executive board of at least 5 members – enough to fill all of the crucial needs. Make it diverse – different ages, different "friend circles" around the school. Don't let it be just another clique.
- Fill out the simple Fuller Center application.



MAKE IT OFFICIAL

- Application approved by Fuller Center
- Application approved by your school
- Sign Student Builders covenant with The Fuller Center (the covenant is the 2-page document that connects your local organization with the work of all the Fuller Centers worldwide).



BUILDING AND SUSTAINING YOUR ORGANIZATION

- With your founding board members, plan your first “official” event such as a build day, and brainstorm a few other possibilities (fundraisers, awareness events, more builds, spring break travel-and-build, etc.)
 - Decide what additional board positions you would like to fill and what leadership teams you would like to form (ex: fundraising, education and outreach, family partnering, and construction)
- Call an all-hands-on-deck campus meeting. Hang posters, send emails, invite more people to your facebook group and send out a message to all its members. Invite special VIPs, like the leaders of prominent campus clubs or the leaders of faith groups on campus.
 - Announce your first event, and ask everyone present to consider joining one of the leadership teams or your board. It’s always vital to try to bring more people into leadership.
- Continue to bring in new, younger leaders, to learn from your successes and failures, to move on faith, and to always say “thank you,” and you’ll be well on your way to having a successful organization for many years to come! We’ll be here to help.

