

Working with College Students

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Step 1: Identify Potential Partner Schools

Find out which institutions of higher education serve your area:

- 4-year Colleges and Universities
- Community Colleges
- Technical/Vocational Schools

Find out what organizations exist on those campuses:

- Pro-Voting Organizations (i.e. NextGen America, Democracy Matters, Campus Vote Project)
- Allied Issue Organizations (i.e. NAACP, ACLU, Planned Parenthood, NOW)
- Affinity Groups (i.e. LGBTQ+ organizations, cultural organizations)

Step 2: Establish Contact with Students

Usually student organization directories will have a main point of contact with an email or other form of contact listed.

- *Tip: If you're reaching out, look for a President or Outreach Coordinator*
- Get creative! If you can find them on social media, send them a private message.
- *Tip: More students are using Instagram and Twitter actively.*

If they have an outward facing group/page, follow it and find out more about their membership and the events they are putting on.

- *Tip: Sign up to join one of their meetings, and invite them to join yours!*

Step 3: Build a Mutually Empowering Relationship

Treat student organizers as your equals.

- Give them a seat at your table and ask for a seat at theirs.
- Ask them for best practices for organizing their communities.
- Host and co-host events nearby/on campus/online to make sure they are accessible (i.e. cultural houses, campus community buildings, Zoom).

Sharing is caring!

- Students are often finding their voice in this work. You can help them grow by sharing your resources and elevating their work. Feel free to connect them with LWVUS Organizing!
- Eliminate barriers to student membership in your local League.

Invest in them beyond League activities.

- Show up to their events where appropriate to show solidarity.
- Develop personal relationships so they know you are a trusted partner.