

Starting a New CSC Group

So you want to volunteer your time and talents to the citizens of Baltimore (and beyond). Great! You've got the passion and energy but are a little confused and intimidated by the process. Relax; this guide is here to walk you through every step of the process.

First things first, what is expected of a CSC group? The center operates under a mission to which ALL our groups must adhere. Most importantly for student groups, the CSC's mission contains an important guiding principle: all services or activities should be win-win operations.

Your activities may be as diverse as elder care, tutoring, environmental clean up, running a summer camp, grassroots organizing, or any other area in which you would like to be of service. Bringing your talents under the auspices of this office offers you a personal and financial support system that would be difficult and laborious to duplicate on your own. It also brings you into contact with a community of people on campus who are dedicated to positive social change.

WHY GROUPS?

- Mutual Support: new perspectives, new resources, well rounded
- You can pool intellectual, energy, and financial resources
- Strength in numbers creates the possibility for greater change
- Camaraderie
- Sustainability: you are interested in long-term service. A group allows the work to continue after you have graduated
- Working democratically projects, by example, the change we seek

I. Getting Started

New groups not only have to show that they can address a particular need in the community, but that they add something new to the groups already working with the CSC. All applications, renewal or new, are reviewed and approved by both the CSC staff and the Student Advocacy Board.

It is always a good first step to make an appointment with Bill. You should arrive to your appointment with as good an idea of the type of service you would like to engage in. If you don't have a clear idea, the staff will help you work it out. Bill will most likely ask:

- Why do you want to do your project?
- Is there a demonstrated need for your service?
- Who will your members be?
- Is someone else already providing the service you are proposing.

II. Leadership Responsibilities

Your responsibilities are very basic and rudimentary to the successful operation of your group. The actual tasks of each of your leaders can vary according to your tastes, politics, and philosophy. Overall, the duties listed for each leaders, below, merely allow the CSC to communicate with groups easily.

A. Organizational Duties

Each group must have two Leaders, and treasurer. Your group may have officers beyond these at your discretion; however, these three offices are mandatory. The function of these offices are to include, but are not limited to, the following.

Leader 1: This person is the primary contact for the group and be aware of all group endeavors and pertinent details.

Leader 2: Render assistance to the Leader 1, fill Leader 1's position should that person no longer be able to do so, for whatever reason, serve as a secondary contact person, and in general be second in command.

Treasurer: Be intimately aware of and responsible for all financial goings on of the group. Serve as a primary contact between the center and the group as pertains to financial dealings.