

Week 1- Tabling and the First Meeting

Hello Presidents! :)

Hope you guys have been having an awesome summer (another month for those on the quarter system, woo-hoo) but with school starting, I know you guys have been diligently preparing for tons of tabling, incoming rush of new members, and that first general body meeting for the school year.

A few good ideas when it comes to:

Tabling/Flyering

Bring:

- Flyers with contact info and meeting time/place/date
- Sign-up sheet
- Club Banner
- Scrapbook or photos
- If someone wants to use their laptop and play a slide show
- Display board
- Spin wheel with prizes
- Free stuff!
- Club t-shirts!
- Costumes or props (bubbles)

These things can make tabling more fun and interesting (for prospective members as well as you) and it's that extra push to make the club seem more appealing for those potential new members.

Be proactive. Stand in front of the table and approach people asking them if they're interested in community service. Be sure not to just stand behind the table and wait for them to come to you. **A smile** can work wonders too when you're walking up to people.

Remember to seem like you're having **fun at tabling!** I know the idea sounds strange, but you actually can have fun while tabling. **Sing cheers, bring your lunch and friends to hang out at the table, or play games** to make tabling less boring. The more fun and happy you seem, the more likely people will be interested in what you have to say and your good attitude will rub off on others walking by.

The First Meeting (and some ideas to spice it up)

So you've got **your basics**: introducing the board (name, position and a fun fact) and guests, brief explanation about Circle K and what we do (service, leadership, and fellowship), presentation of service projects (soup kitchen on Saturday!), how to become a member (really important!).

- **Have a set agenda prepared.** Print these out as well for your members with important dates, events on it, and contact information for all the board members. (attached- sample agenda)

- **Rehearse how the first meeting is going to go.** The more prepared and professional you look, the better. Also remember that board members discussing amongst each other about things that should have been discussed at a board meeting can be a huge turn-off to members. It's not only boring for the members to just sit there but it also alienates them because it's something that they're not involved in.
- **Make sure to have a service project or social planned** for the weekend after the first meeting. These things are critical in hooking those new members because it gives them a chance to check out the club while they're still interested and it's still the first couple of weeks when they're not completely bogged down with studying and homework assignments. **If you can get your Kiwanis involved**, together you can plan something like a BBQ and your Kiwanis club will most likely help fund for your social.
- **Make it sweet and simple** especially if you're a community college where people still have to go to classes after the meeting. For all schools, big and small, remember not to overload new members with a ton of information about Circle K. Discussing where dues go can be important but not completely necessary for the first meeting. They'll want to know where their money is going as a dues paid member, but instead of going over the breakdown, talk about the benefits of being a member to get them interested in paying their dues. **You can always hold a CKI 101** to go more into detail about how Circle K works on another day.

Now to the more interesting stuff. These can make a big difference to how successful your first meeting goes in getting new members interested.

Introduction skit or video- these can be silly and a lot of fun and it's interactive for the members.

Play an Icebreaker- this is a good way to loosen people up and raise the energy level.

*****In fact**, we've just started an icebreaker database and it would be really awesome if you or your social chairs could help us by entering some of your favorite icebreakers! Please go to this link:

<http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?key=pKOyqoeBFJhCGVO0BGIjSFA> to enter in an icebreaker.

To view the entire spreadsheet, click on this link:

<http://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=pKOyqoeBFJhCGVO0BGIjSFA>

- **Have an after meeting social-** It doesn't have to be an elaborate one, it can be going to a food or boba place. They're easy, pretty chill, and we all know that in Circle K, we tend to eat a lot. It's right after a meeting, so everybody is already there. Or, if it's in your budget, buy pizza and snacks to have after the meeting. We're college students, so free food is always a bonus.
- **Fines and finks-** this is when members get to talk during the meeting. They donate any amount of money into any kind of collecting box you want to use (a money chest, piggy bank, whatever) and they get a minute or so to talk about their day. Explain that the money donated is given to a charity, Six Cent's Initiative for example. Make sure to explain what kind of charity it is as well.

Remember to be enthusiastic about Circle K! Again, your good attitude will not only attract others, but your energy will spread to the people around you.

Other Recruiting Ideas:

- **Talk at the beginning of your class**- ask your professor if it's OK to give a 1 minute speech about Circle K and how we're a college community service organization. Pass around a sign-up sheet for people who are interested.
- **Chalking**- I know you've read a bunch of these during lectures when you were bored. Have a chalking event where members get up extra early (to beat out all those fraternities and sororities) and run around lecture halls to write the messages on the chalk boards. You can even turn it into a social where people sleep over on campus the night before.
- **Back-to-school Bonfire**- If you're close enough to the beach, you can plan a bonfire during welcome week. This will take quite a bit of planning and you will probably want to have a BBQ/pizza and snacks (s'mores are a good idea). Have activities and other icebreakers planned as well. A lot of other clubs are going to have bonfires the same week, so plan on getting to the beach pretty early to secure a bonfire pit.

Well, there you have it President's! The **first weekly email** of the year. If you have any **comments or suggestions**, I'd love to hear them.

For more resources and ideas, check out our website at www.cnhcirclek.org. There's a TON of information that's not covered in this email which is there for YOU!

Questions? You can email me at mde@cnhcirclek.org or call me at (858) 740-8334.

Until next week :)

