

How To Have A Successful FCA Huddle At Your School!

There are four elements that are common to all effective FCA Huddles. If you have an existing FCA Huddle, check to see which of these you are doing well and which you need to improve on. If you are beginning a new FCA Huddle, make sure all these elements are in place and you'll be off to a good start!

- 1. A committed FCA SPONSOR and LEADERSHIP TEAM.***
- 2. A common VISION for what FCA can be on your campus with a strong focus on servicing the campus.***
- 3. A PLAN to carry out the vision that you have for FCA on your campus.***
- 4. A COMMITMENT to the plan***

If any of these elements are missing, you will not see FCA as effective at your school as it could be. With each of these four elements, there are important points that must be considered. Lets look at these:

1. A committed FCA SPONSOR and LEADERSHIP TEAM.

FCA is student initiated, that means that students are “in charge” of the FCA ministry on your campus. The core group of these students who are in charge are called the FCA Leadership Team. This team serves as the heart of FCA on the campus – a weak heart will mean a weak FCA; a strong heart will mean a strong FCA!

The adult advisor or Sponsor(s), (may be more than one), is a Resource person for the FCA Huddle. Although the students are “in charge” the Sponsor makes recommendations and gives advice when needed, working directly with the Leadership Team. ALL VISIONS AND PLANS THAT THE FCA LEADERSHIP TEAM DEVELOPES FOR THE FCA MINISTRY ON EVERY CAMPUS MUST HAVE THE “BLESSING” OF THE SPONSOR.

Leadership Team Member profile:

- A Strong Faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and commitment to the local church.
- Some of the Student Leaders need to be student athletes. (at least half).
- Student Leadership should be made up of girls and guys.
- Representation from every class should be present on the Leadership Team, (Senior, Junior, Sophomore, Freshman).
- Leadership Team members must be TEAM Players – they must work together well with others.
- Leadership Team members must be willing to be servants, helping others and looking unselfishly at the needs of the campus and the FCA Huddle.
- Leadership Team members must be willing to be trained, using FCA resources and Training seminars for growth in their understanding of how to do FCA successfully.
- Leadership Team Members must have a commitment to the FCA Mission, “to present to athletes and coaches and all whom they influence, the challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.”

FCA Adult Sponsor profile:

- The FCA Sponsor should have a Strong Faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and commitment to the local church.
- It is preferable to have a Coach as the FCA Sponsor or at least as a Co-sponsor.
- The FCA Sponsor should enjoy working with students in non-classroom situations and be an encourager to the students in FCA, especially those on the Leadership Team.
- The FCA Sponsor should be willing to let the students “take charge” of the FCA Ministry on campus, but willing to step in to help with any need.
- The FCA Sponsor must keep a close “pulse” on the direction of the FCA, willing to give advice and keep the direction going in a healthy manner.
- The FCA Sponsor must be willing to be trained, using FCA resources and Training seminars for growth in their understanding of how to do FCA successfully.
- The FCA Sponsor must have a commitment to the FCA Mission, “to present to athletes and coaches and all whom they influence, the challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.”

2. A common VISION for what FCA can be on your campus.

The Bible says that where there is no Vision the people will perish! The same is true of FCA at your school – where there is no FCA Vision, the FCA ministry will cease to exist!

How do you create a common vision? You start with the FCA Mission Statement and fill in the blanks as they apply to your campus! In other words, ask yourself the question “how do we accomplish the FCA Mission,” then go about developing ideas that would do that while keeping in mind the unique characteristics of your school.

Finally, develop your own vision statement that will verbalize your Leadership Teams vision for FCA at your school. Your Vision Statement should be clear, measurable and attainable. Through the years, as Leadership changes, the Vision may change. ***The Key to an effective vision is that it comes from God and that it is understood as a process which begins with prayer, asking for God’s leadership in giving the vision!***

3. A PLAN to carry out the vision that you have for FCA on your campus.

Once you have a Vision for FCA at your school, you must develop the plan to accomplish that vision. Plans don’t have to be complicated, but they do have to be active and suitable for accomplishing the Vision. Once the Leadership Team, along with the Huddle Sponsor’s input, have developed and voted on a plan. The plan should be carried out with excitement and with a commitment to do it to the best of your ability! It is recommended that the Leadership Team and Sponsor involve the FCA Area Representative and his/her input on the PLAN before it is finalized. The FCA Area Rep’s experience can help the group to know if the plan is an attainable plan or if there are minor adjustments that may need to be considered.

4. A COMMITMENT to the plan

Enough Said! If there is no commitment the plan obviously will not work. Commitment speaks of character and integrity. It is a vital element in the life of making FCA successful at your school.

Is Your School Ready for FCA?

1. Can/Do we have at least one coach or faculty sponsor that will be committed to the process of FCA on our campus with us?
2. Can/Do we have a core group of committed Christian students, (some of whom are athletes, playing on a team), who will serve faithfully on a Leadership Team for FCA. (The Leadership Team should ideally have representation from each class: Senior, Junior, Sophomore, Freshman).
3. Will this group commit to involvement in Leadership Training for FCA Leadership Teams and attending FCA Leadership Camp during the summer?
4. Can/Do we have at least one or two students, (Captains), along with the faculty sponsor who will begin this process and commit to seeing it through?

Can you answer “yes” to all 4 of these questions...If so, you are ready to have FCA at your school!!!

What is FCA's Campus Ministry?

The Campus Ministry is initiated and led by student-athletes with guidance from coaches on junior high, high school and college campuses. The programs of the Campus Ministry include Huddles, team Bible studies, chapel programs, Team FCA membership, One Way 2 Play – Drug Free! program and special events.

Our FCA Campus Ministries are designed to impact a Campus. Though we have different programs to impact a campus we have common goals for each of the programs:

Sharing Christ – Ultimate purpose and meaning comes from a personal relationship with Jesus. Our Campus Ministries desire to help athletes realize that faith in Jesus has positive effects in a person's life.

Seeking Christ – Our Campus Ministries provide the environment and direction to help those who are interested in seeking God. Opportunities come in Huddle meetings, team Bible studies, team chapels, etc. Those involved also are trained to seek God on their own through “quiet times,” personal Bible studies, involvement in a local church, etc.

Leading Others – The FCA Campus Ministry can serve as a training ground for leaders of tomorrow. These student-led, student-initiated groups provide opportunities for these emerging leaders to have a great impact as they learn to be a leader for Christ.

Loving Others – In our Campus Ministries, we strive to demonstrate and live lives of total acceptance and love. In these environments, young people have the opportunity to grow and develop into the people they were destined to be.

Who can participate?

Even though FCA targets athletes and coaches, a school's Campus Ministry should never place restrictions on its memberships. As athletes grow in their faith, those athletes will desire to reach out to the entire student body. This does not mean, however, that the Campus Ministry should abandon the common ground of athletics.

What is a Huddle Coach?

A Huddle Coach is a coach, faculty member or volunteer who assists the student leaders in organizing and carrying out the FCA programs and activities.

Huddle Coaches will fill many roles. They may serve as coaches, trainers, teammates and even referees. However, the most important quality in a Huddle Coach is their commitment to seeing the lives of young people change through Jesus Christ and athletics.

Where can I get help?

FCA can help in many ways. Most Campuses have FCA Staff in close proximity who is available for training and support. In addition, we provide many resources for you and your Campus Ministry.

Campus Ministry Kit – Everything you need to succeed! Videos, meeting plans, personal encouragement and more.

FCA Playbook – A handbook for FCA leaders that gives the “nuts and bolts” of how to organize and facilitate a Huddle. A must for the Huddle Coach and student leadership!

Huddle Coach Network – A web-based monthly newsletter for Huddle Coaches that includes spiritual encouragement, Huddle ideas, FCA news, answers to difficult questions, and a review of available resources.

Access to FCA Gear – More than 100 items of merchandise and ministry resources – clothing, videos, books and more. For more information call toll free at (800) 386-0941, or visit us on the web at www.fcagear.com.

Insurance – You will be covered under FCA's liability insurance coverage and have access to Accident/ Medical Insurance for FCA sponsored events in the U.S.

How do I get started?

1. **Pray.** Ask the Lord to prepare your FCA start-up.
2. **Contact your FCA Staff.** They will give you a better understanding of FCA's purpose, philosophy and programs. To find information on your local FCA office call toll free (800) 289-0909, or visit the **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** web site.
3. **Seek the Administration's blessing.** FCA should be student-initiated and student-led. Students should meet with school administrators to obtain approval, and provide them with information regarding the FCA ministry.
4. **Certify your Campus.** Use the Online Certification tool on FCA's web site: www.fca.org/certify.
5. **Complete the Ministry Leader Application.** This can be obtained through your local FCA staff, or it can be completed online: www.fca.org/mla
6. **Identify Student Leaders/Huddle Coaches.** Identify the students who are most likely to be leaders in your FCA, and ask Christian adults to be Huddle Coaches. (It is ideal if the adults are coaches at your school.)
7. **Surround yourself with volunteers.** Adult Ministries are designed to support the FCA. These adults can meet together, raise funds and assist in activities.
8. **Determine the impact.** There are many ways you can impact your campus. Decide if you want to start a Huddle, lead a team Bible study or develop a team chaplain program.
9. **Hold a Leadership meeting.** Have a meeting with the Leadership Team and your FCA staff to learn about the great resources in the Campus Ministry Kit. Discuss meeting schedule, FCA-provided materials, and the impact that FCA will have on your campus.
10. **Complete Basic Training.** In your Campus Ministry Kit you will find our Huddle Playbook. In the Playbook are five leadership training sessions called: Basic Training. Take time to complete these lessons with your leadership team.
11. **Build a Plan.** In the Basic Training lessons you will learn how to utilize FCA's resources to do ministry on your campus. Use the Planning Sheets found in the Resource section of the Huddle Playbook to build two months worth of ministry plans. Then regularly meet with your leadership team to put the plan in motion and to continue the planning process.
12. **Evaluate.** FCA has provided a great tool to help you lead the best campus ministry possible. The Huddle Scouting Report will help you evaluate all the important areas of your ministry. It is found in the Huddle Playbook, on the Huddle eEquipment CD and on the web in our Huddle eEquipment.
13. **Ongoing Leadership Training.** All great teams have that extra advantage – The X Factor. FCA's ongoing training for our leaders is that extra advantage. Leadership teams should meet regularly to pray, plan their campus ministry and further develop their leadership abilities by working through all 15 of our X Factor lessons found on the Huddle eEquipment CD.

If you have any questions, please contact Damon Fogal @ dfogal@fca.org or cell# 704-576-4423



So, what's next? Lets begin the process, step by step.....

1. Identify the Huddle Sponsor(s) from your school.

Name(s): _____

2. * Identify the Captain(s) for your FCA. These are the “Key Servant” Leaders and vital to making the process of FCA successful.

Name(s): _____

3. Complete and return the Huddle Sanctioning form with the \$40 annual due payment to FCA's National office in Kansas City, Mo.

4. Identify the Leadership Team Members (with class) from your school's FCA.

Name(s): _____

5. Schedule and complete the 2-hour FCA Leadership Training with FCA Area Representative.

(Available times for Leadership Training are four 30 minutes sessions before/after school, or 2 hours on Saturday morning or Sunday Afternoon.)

6. Pray about what churches in the area would partner with the huddle and have them contact the FCA Area Director for approval.

7. Stay in contact with the FCA Area Representative with needs or questions that you have about FCA at your School!

FCA Huddle Certification/Renewal Form

(Please complete and return this form to the Central NC, FCA Office.)

Mail to:

FCA of Central NC

PO Box 77516

Greensboro, NC 27417

1. We are no longer participating in FCA at our School. School Name _____
2. We are involved with FCA at our School, enclosed is our \$40 sanctioning fee for the Current school year.
3. We are involved with FCA at our School but cannot pay the \$40 sanctioning fee. Please find another means to pay this fee for us.

If you checked # 2 or 3 above please complete the following information:

Date ____/____/____

School/Organization Name _____ Renewal # _____

Street Address _____ Mascot _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

Huddle Leaders School E-mail Address _____

Huddle Coach Name _____ M____ F____

Home Address _____ Home Phone (____) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Cell Phone (____) _____

Huddle Leaders Home E-mail Address _____

Send Mail to: School Address Huddle Coach Home Address

Type of Huddle: Public School Private School Team Huddle Recreation League Church Based
 Coaches Adult Officials/Referees Other (please list type _____)

Ages of Attendees: Senior Adult College Sr. High Jr. High/Middle School Elementary

My check or money order is enclosed, made payable to FCA.

Please charge \$ _____ to my Visa MasterCard Discover

Card# _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Expiration ____/____ EVC# ____ on back

Cardholder Name _____
Print Signature

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

*Once your Huddle Registration is processed, you will receive an FCA Huddle Resource Kit within two weeks from the National FCA Office in Kansas City.

PLEASE BE SURE THAT YOU HAVE COMPLETED A MINISTRY LEADER APPLICATION EITHER ONLINE OR ON PAPER AND RETURNED IT TO OUR OFFICE OR YOUR HUDDLE WILL NOT BE CERTIFIED. THANK YOU

FCA Area Representative's Leadership Team Resource Information

School Year: _____

School: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Directions: _____

_____ Huddle Exp. Date _____

Huddle Sponsor: _____ E-mail: _____ Planning Period: _____

Birthday: _____ Personal Notes: _____

FCA Leadership Team, Captain(s) listed first (*) Initial FCA Leadership Training Completed? _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ E-mail: _____ Class: _____ birthday: _____

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