



# GETTING STARTED GUIDE

Empower Teens  
in Your  
Community

[www.connectionclubs.com](http://www.connectionclubs.com)



# Connection Club

by Operation Link-Up

## 1. A Connection Club Enables You To...

### Mentor Teens (Group and 1-on-1)

Teens are enriched through our exciting group mentoring approach! We provide fun and informative Life Solutions Sessions that address key issues through relevant topics such as: Get off the Edge (anger), I Don't Come Cheap (self-worth), Go for the Gold (goals), Picked Out for a Purpose (purpose), Do It for the Cause (loyalty) and more! Plus, our proven one-on-one mentoring system is provided!

### Motivate Teens

Teens are motivated to raise their expectations and daily standards through our challenge and reward system. They are inspired to strive for excellence in every area of their lives through: positive declarations, weekly goal-setting exercises, home quality check-ups, academic accountability sheets and leadership awards.

### Mobilize Teens

Connection Clubs mobilize youth to be positive shareholders in their communities. They learn how to apply the 5 C's of success by planning and carrying out monthly Do-It-Days, where they contribute to their community!

## 2. You Receive a Complete Start-Up Package

The Connection Club Start-Up Package provides everything that you need to start a high impact teen empowerment group in your community. The packet is comprehensive and easy-to-use!



### Life Solutions Sessions (Group Mentoring)

40 exciting and easy-to-use sessions that address key issues such as: anger, self-worth, honor & respect, goal-setting, vision, life-purpose and more. Great points, role-plays, discussions and fill-in-the blank sheets are provided.



### 5-Star Quality (5 C's) Initiative

Empowers youth to excel at service and community contribution through courage, consciousness, compassion, cooperation and consistency. Leader Sheets and Do-It-Day formats are provided.



### Make It Happen Guide

Step-by-step guide on how to plan community youth events, outreaches and activities.



### Program Guide & DVD

Includes our daily program structure and procedures as well as all program forms and letters.



### Connection Club Handbook

Provides youth and parents with a full overview of the program. The handbook outlines the expectations, rules and rewards of being in the Connection Club.



### Promo Package

Everything that is needed to promote your youth program is provided. This packet includes: a banner, flyers, promo cards, door hangers, internet ad and business cards.



### Plus! A Membership Packet For Each Teen

Each participating youth can receive a Connection Club Membership Packet. The packet includes these four items: a Shirt, Membership Card, Wristband and a Connection Expressions Journal.

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## 3. You Can Start a Program in These Places

### Apartment Complexes & Housing Communities

Multi-family communities are a great place to implement this program. The program is a source of positivity, excitement and peace among youth. We recommend using a clubhouse or community room for the weekly gatherings and activities.

### Homes

Caring Adults can make a huge impact in their communities by leading a Connection Club in their homes. A home program provides a cozy place for sharing and discussion. It can be a motivating source of positivity and service among youth in any neighborhood.

### Schools

Connection Clubs are a great way to engage students during after-school/after-care hours. Classrooms, cafeterias and gymnasiums are perfect places for the program participants to gather. The program can also take place during the school day with select student groups or classes.



## 4. Your Daily Program Points

Program points are provided so that your group gatherings will flow in an organized manner. This structure helps you to maintain direction in your program. The suggested timeline can be customized to any day and time that your program meets. Each time segment provides options of things to do. This proven format is lively and informal. It keeps youth engaged!

- 3:30pm** (10-15 min.) – **Shifting Gears:** Check-In • Conversations • Games
- 3:45pm** (5 min.) – **Declaration:** Recite Code of Honor and Code of Identity
- 3:50pm** (10 min.) – **Motivation:** Shooting Star Goals • S.A.S. or Home Quality Updates • Leadership Tallies
- 4:00pm** (30-40 min.) – **Mentoring & Mobilization:** Life Solutions Session or 5 C's (5-Star Quality)
- 4:40pm** (10-20 min.) – **Connection:** Connection Journal Expressions • Discussion • Snack/Food (optional)
- 4:50pm** (5 min.) – **Motivation:** Rewards • Challenges • Reminders
- 4:55pm** (5 min.) – **Declaration:** Recite Code of Honor and Code of Identity
- 5:00pm** – **Dismissal**



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## 5. Answers to Your Questions

### How often should we meet and how many youth can be in the program?

Most groups meet once or twice per week. You choose the days and times that your group meets. You can have a few youth or many youth in your group, no number is too small or too large.

### What are the ages of youth who can be in the program?

The ages of the youth should range from twelve years old to eighteen years old (sixth grade through twelfth grade). If your group is large enough it can be divided into age-based groups for age appropriate conversations or activities. Please note, you can include youth ages ten and eleven in your program. It's your choice.

### How many months should the program last?

Many programs function 9-10 months per year. Breaks are often taken during August and from Mid-December to Mid-January (Holiday Season). However, we provide enough program content for your program to function year-round (11-12 months). It is best to schedule your program in the way that best suits you.

### Are there fees or charges for youth to participate?

Participating youth have to pay a membership fee of \$30.00. This fee provides them with their Membership Packet which includes a shirt, membership card, wristband and a Connection Expressions Journal. You may charge fees for special events, outings and trips (this is done at your discretion).

## 6. How You Can Get Started

### SIGN-UP



**There is a very low start-up fee.** After your program fee is received your Start-Up Package will be sent to you. The Start-Up Package is comprehensive and complete. It provides everything needed to begin your program immediately. We also provide a free training (via internet)!

### MEET UP



**Meet with at least one other person** who may be able to help with your Connection Club. It can be a staff member, co-worker, relative or neighbor.

### PROMOTE



**A Promo Package comes along with your Start-Up Package.** These resources help you to publicize your program in your area. You receive flyers, promo cards, business cards, door hangers, a promo banner, an internet ad and more!

### PARTNER



**Maximize the power of partnerships.** Ask other people to partner with your effort to impact youth in your area. We provide multiple ideas on how to build these community collaborations.

### USE THE PATTERN



**The Connection Club program pattern** provides you with the structure that is necessary to have a sustainable youth program. As you use our proven program pattern, you will be able to successfully impact the lives of teenagers in your community!

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