

Building a Group



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For success in bringing the Minus Malaria Initiative to your campus, you need a unified group of students working together to educate your campus and community about the burden of malaria and to begin to make a difference. If you do not yet have a group who wants to join the Minus Malaria Initiative, this document provides tips on how to go about forming such a group.



Where to Start

Start by holding an interest meeting to inform potential members about the group. Advertise this meeting among groups of potential interested students. Email these groups through campus departments, student offices, student organizations, community service and activism organizations, and so on. Post flyers and submit an advertisement to your school newspaper and other relevant publications.

Sample list of students with a potential interest:

- ❖ *Pre-medicine students*
- ❖ *Public Policy majors and minors*
- ❖ *Students interested in Economic development*
- ❖ *Students of Public Health*
- ❖ *International Relations and Political Science majors and minors*
- ❖ *Students studying developing countries or regions, such as Africa*
- ❖ *Biology majors and minors*
- ❖ *Students interested in community service*
- ❖ *Students interested in activism and advocacy*

The First Group Meeting

Prior to this meeting, create a thorough plan about what will happen at the first meeting. It is important to have a well-organized and focused first meeting to convey the sense that your group is goal-oriented, organized, and true to its word about getting things done. At the first meeting:

- ❖ *Start with an icebreak—let everyone get to know each other*
- ❖ *Discuss what the group's ultimate goals are and then establish what the group needs to accomplish for that semester and that year to reach those goals.*
- ❖ *Record people's skills and areas of interests, so that the group knows who to ask to do each task. Create a survey with different categories of task (i.e. publicity, education, management, fundraising, etc.) and have people circle which areas interest them, as well as indicate on the sheet any useful skills they have—for example, technological savvy, graphic design skills, etc.*
- ❖ *Have people volunteer to take management positions, especially those of secretary, education coordinator, treasurer, event coordination, and (perhaps) publicity and media coordinator. Appointments can be made by group consensus or elections.*
- ❖ *Provide refreshments. It's a good way to gain people's favor and thank them for their involvement.*

Remember, these are only recommendations; other things may also be appropriate for your group.

The Second Meeting: Self-education

Before diving into raising awareness about malaria in others, you need to make sure the group is educated about the issue. Dedicate the second meeting to educating yourselves about malaria. You can use the PowerPoint entitled "The Basics of Malaria" in the education toolkit found at globalhealthforum.org for this purpose. As an idea to engage everyone, you can ask members to read a little bit about malaria on their own and then come in and share what they found.

Tips for future meetings

- ❖ *Keep everyone involved—give small responsibilities to as many people as you can*
- ❖ *Start meetings with an icebreaker until Everyone starts to know each other's names*
- ❖ *Plan each meeting thoroughly or you'll waste a lot of everyone's time*
- ❖ *Continuously update the group about malaria in the news and other global health issues*

