

# HOW TO FIND THE RIGHT GROUP FOR YOU

Being a member of a student organization will enrich your years at Santa Ana College. The good friends and good times may help transform what is sometimes a large and overwhelming institution into a place that you can call "home". Student groups also provide opportunities to explore new interests, develop skills, enhance your academic program, and have an impact on the college community. However, with so many clubs and organizations on campus, how do you decide which group or groups are best for you?

You have taken the first step and made a good start by coming to the Office of Student Life. We have helpful staff and lots of information to help you with the decision of finding the right group. You may choose to become involved in clubs or an honor society (Student Activities), or the Associated Student Government (ASG), or both. Either way, you are taking the first step in developing leadership skills, and in creating fun and positive experiences and memories of your time at Santa Ana College.

## WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO ME?

Ask yourself some of these questions:

- What am I looking for in an organization?
- Do I primarily want fellowship, and to make new friends?
- Do I want to work on something I believe in?
- Do I want to explore something new?
- Should I be in a group that relates to my major or career choice?
- Should I continue an interest from high school, or another community college?
- Do I want to be of service to the campus or community?
- Are there financial considerations?

Then, the next question is:

## WHAT KIND OF GROUPS ARE THERE?

Departmental / Academic

Religious

Sports / Dance

International

Special Interest

Honor Societies

Cultural

Source of some information::  
Student Organization Development Center, University of Michigan (1999)

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## HOW DO I GET INFORMATION?

The Office of Student Life / Student Activities office will provide a listing of available clubs & organizations on campus as clubs are approved, and information regarding club meeting times and locations becomes available. Club Rush is an activity sponsored by the Inter-Club Council (ICC) during which several clubs provide information about their clubs at various tables set up in the Quad /Fountain area of the campus. This event takes place during the first month of each semester so that new and existing clubs can recruit new members, and provide information to interested students.

### Campus Offices:

- Office of Student Life / Student Activities: U-121-A 714-564-6320
- Associated Student Government: U-121-G 714-564-6208
- Inter-Club Council Office: U-121-G 714-564-6323

## SO HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

First of all, remember that most organizations are going to be far more nervous about recruiting you than you will be about joining their group. They really do want new members, and they are very eager to answer your questions and explain their activities and purposes.

Some groups have “mass meetings” at the beginning of each semester. These are open to any interested student. Other groups recruit their members through posters, Club Rush, or word of mouth and may have their meetings begin after Club Rush is completed. You are under no obligation to join the group if you attend their meeting – it’s simply a chance to get more information and for the group to learn of your interest.

If you miss Club Rush, or you find out about a group during the year, call a contact person or club advisor and find out when and where the group’s next meeting will be held. Contact information for club officers and advisors will be available in the Student Life /Activities Office. In addition, once all clubs and organizations have been approved and their meeting locations and times are available, lists of clubs and contact information will be available in the Student Life Office, and the list will be posted on the “Clubs and Organizations” Bulletin Board outside the Student Life /Student Activities Office.

Once you have joined an organization, don’t just sit back and wait for something to happen. Introduce yourself to people, ask questions, express ideas, and be sure to volunteer your time and energy. You will feel more like a real member if you are an actively involved and contributing member.

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