

Official High School Ministry Organization of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States

"WE ARE AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST." 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20

Youth Outreach Idea Bank

"And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

(Mark 16:15)

The love of Christ should be shared with everyone, but it can be difficult to start that conversation with people. Below is a list of simple evangelism ideas that can be done on campus.

1. Teach about Evangelism (internal to OCSM members)

Many of our chapter members have no clue how to go about evangelism. Educating chapter members on the importance of evangelism and how to go about it is crucial. This can be done by handing out informative pamphlets, dedicating a bible study session to it, or by providing resources to watch or read.

2. Visiting an Oriental Orthodox Church

Many of our chapters have Oriental Orthodox Churches nearby or in the same city. Attending the services at a sister OO Church will both be an educational experience for OCSM members and a way to introduce yourself to members of our sister churches. Their youth may be students at your own chapter!

3. Sport Game with Lesson at Halftime

A sporting event (basketball, volleyball, kickball, etc.) hosted by the chapter. Members can invite friends (lost sheep, non-believers, interested in the faith, etc.) and play in the game or tournament with an OCSM lesson given at halftime.



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4. OCSM Olympics

Building on a lesson at halftime at only one game, why not create a whole tournament with multiple chapters! While this does require much planning, this is a great way for people to attract people to the Faith via a larger scale activity.

5. Awko Taco

A social event where members invite students to discuss controversial topics surrounding Christian values while having a meal. Different foods can be used, so change the name if done so.

6. Palm Craft Night

During Lent, chapters can partake in fellowship by inviting others by weaving palm leaves together. A tutorial can be given by a member or perhaps members throughout the chapter can meet visitors and assist them.

7. Tabling: Set up a table at your school

Most High Schools have organization fairs or allow for organizations to set up a table on campus. People walking by can look at a poster about Orthodoxy, pick up a pamphlet, and stop to ask questions.

8. Goodie Bag Giveaway: Pass out goods with an attached Bible verse

Cut out bible verses and attach them to a bag of snacks, goodie bag, or nick nack. Have a group of members seek out a location with many people, such as outside the school library, and pass them out for free!



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9. Invite People to Bible Study or Community Service Events

Simply inviting friends to OCSM social, volunteer, or spiritual events can spark someone's interest in the faith. Encourage members to invite their friends and be extremely welcoming and friendly to any new members who join.

10. Outdoor/Public Bible Studies

Host a bible study or prayer service outdoors on campus allowing anyone to join. This can be your usual weekly bible study. This is intended to draw people's attention and maybe someone passing by will ask to join or will hear a verse or message that touches them.

11. Putting up Posters or Banners

Ask administration if you can hang up posters, banners, or flyers on bulletin boards around your school. Hanging up information about Orthodoxy or OCSM with bible verses written on it is a great way to reach students.

12. Small Group Bible Study/Assigning Small Talks

Within the greater chapter, form small groups to host Bible studies on campus and rotate heading talks (pending approval of Clergy Advisor) in campus' high traffic areas. Create a group chat and meet on a regular basis. Sometimes people get bored of hearing Bible study sounding like a lecture, but when it comes from a friend, it becomes personalized and more relatable!



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13. Bible Trivia Night

Host a Bible trivia night and invite a friend from outside who may not be familiar with the Orthodox faith. This provides a direct forum to display what it is that the Orthodox Faith testifies to and provides an opportunity for clarification as well as a sense of a welcoming community.

14. Carnival Style Event

Host a carnival event on campus or a convenient place such as Church by bringing carnival games, food, and prizes to the carnival. This is a great way to expose non-believers to the fun activities we do and invite them to your next meeting/church service. Additionally, with the clergy advisor's permission, handing out unique Orthodox items along with OCSM pamphlets are another way to have our organization and overall our faith stand out.

15. Campus Tutoring

Collaborate with your school in establishing tutoring services for various subjects to capitalize on your educational talents. It does not have to be complicated subjects, yet work according to your capabilities in helping those who may not be able to afford hiring a tutor. Establish a system in working with students and create a personal relationship with them to expose them to the faith.

16. OCSM Tutoring

Another Tutoring opportunity is by having OCSM host a tutoring event. Have OCSM members lead tutoring according to their talents. This is a great way to get OCSM's name out and gain relationships with people outside of our organization.



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17. Blood Drive with Giveaway

Coordinate with organizations such as OneBlood to host blood drives, preferably on campus. If not possible, advertise it on campus to have it hosted at your local Oriental Orthodox church. Have a table set up outside the bus to make donors aware of the purpose of our organization and the premise of our faith.

18. Game Night

Host a Game Night on campus with games of your choosing such as board games, game shows, etc. and invite a friend to come join. Have a quick lesson or maybe even make games related to the Faith such as Orthodox Trivia. Have them meet new people and make them feel welcome!

19. Christmas/Easter Party

Coordinate a Christmas/Easter party on campus and invite friends to come and eat and have a great time! Have a quick lesson on what makes our reasons for the seasons different from others and promote fellowship with those from outside.

20. Prayer Night

Students on campus are familiar with the concept of prayer. Utilize this to your advantage by conducting a Prayer Night involving the Book of Hours (Agpeya), excerpts from Midnight Praises (Tasbeha), or Veneration event on campus. In doing so, your chapter can familiarize the greater campus to the Oriental Orthodox method of prayer.



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21. Club Collabs

Coordinate an event with other clubs at your school, this way people can get in other clubs and can come to learn about OCSM. Examples can be a sponsored breakfast by OCSM and other clubs or a **OCSM led** bible study partnering with another christian club at your school.

If you have other ideas outside of this list, please be sure to run them by the Youth Outreach Director.

Reporting of Events Completion

Please complete the <u>Youth Outreach Event Tracking</u> Google Form to describe the work completed at the event, and send pictures to your Youth Outreach Director for proof of completion!