

Youth Voter Movement

Student Guide to Organizing a Registration Guide



YVM Mission - Support the registration or pre-registration of high school and college students to vote, encourage students to register others and inspire all to vote. The effort is supported by organizations such as The League of Women Voters. This project is inspired by the numerous students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas HS whose voices have been silenced, informed and amplified.

Tips for Organizing a Drive (suggestions to be individualized and enhanced)

Organize a Team:

- Effort should be student-led, adult-supported
- Need student leader(s) who are passionate, driven, organized, respected and have time
- Choose versatile team members and ensure each has a unique role
- Get teens trained on voter registration (not required but recommended)
- Secure a faculty sponsor/advocate who is also passionate
- Think about including ASB, SURF, School Site Council, PTA, etc.
- Secure a local League of Women Voters liaison
- Add parent/adult support, especially ones trained in voter registration
- Get administration approval early on

Make a Project Plan:

- Establish regular meetings and create meeting minutes
- Assign key project element roles to team members
- Project manager, communications, logistics, liaisons to admin/LoWV/ASB, tech support
- Break up project into smaller pieces
- Assign specific well-defined items to individuals with due dates
- Keep plan updated and disseminated to team frequently
- Incentives are prohibited via voter registration laws; unless they are given to everyone, including those who choose not to register.

Decisions to be Made:

- Set a registration goal - x % of all 16-19-year-old students?
- How to accomplish registration: assembly, in classes, coupled with an event, during lunch?
- Set date(s) - could be a single day to a week-long drive
- Consider how to organize online and written registration options (everyone with a license registers online at left side of gym, those without license will register on paper right side)
- How to raise awareness of importance of voter registration
- How to publicize event(s), build enthusiasm, use social media

- What and how to get information to students on what to bring (while informing parents)
- How to tally number of teens registered

Logistics to Consider:

- Location(s) to do event, consider rain
- Infrastructure needed: tables, chairs, ability to post signs, have instructions
- WiFi capability and available printer to print out online registration receipts (*optional*)
- Cart of school laptops, iPads, chrome books
- Area for filling in handwritten forms, along with blue/black pens, all forms collected
- Tallying structure - banner, poster, stickers; possibly with a goal bar
- Card to sign for Parkland students or combine with above?
- Number of adult trained voter registration volunteers needed
- Provide water for volunteers
- Assign photographer (take pics from behind faces), reporter, get input/feedback/quotes

Resources Available:

- Teen-friendly videos on history and importance of voting
- Statistics on (non)impact of teen voting
- Flyer on what to bring for registration drive
- Flyer for why doing drive(s)
- Teacher resources with suggestions, videos, activities on how to prep students
- Sharing of ideas from what other school sites are doing
- Publicity from School District Communications Director
- Adults trained in voter registration to answer questions during drive(s)
- When available, access to YVM wristbands
- When available, YVM of Office of Registrar stickers to help with tallying
- Website of resources includes FAQs

After Drive:

- Polish project plan to share with other schools
- Submit to PVM - list of all involved in your leadership team, including team photo, number of new students (pre)registered, % eligible...
- Write summary of event to share on website to say what was done, what went well, could be improved, lessons learned, advice for other schools... YVM will provide template
- Challenge student participants to host more drives at programs they are involved in like church groups, scouts, sports, events, clubs, a different school, etc. (track this)
- Invite students to join League of Women Voters to stay informed (nonpartisan)
- Invite students to register to become poll workers (could earn money)
- Remind students when the next election is coming up
- Encourage students to buy/wear YVM wristbands and spread the word