



The information below is intended to provide a detailed description of the role, responsibility, and time commitment involved in leading a Life Group.

Please read this information carefully. Pray about how God might want to use you in Life Groups this year and be sure to check your calendar against the mandatory training dates.

ABOUT LIFE GROUPS

The young men and women who will participate in Life Groups are students fresh out of high school, and the year ahead of them presents all sorts of uncertainties. It will be a time of significant transition.

Year after year, new students thrive at Union because of the investment Life Group Leaders make in their lives. Life Groups will continue to meet new students where they are and help them take those first critical steps of their collegiate years.

Incoming students come from a variety of backgrounds and have unique needs and interests. Therefore, Life Group Leaders must develop a broad range of interpersonal skills and the flexibility to take on a variety of roles to meet students where they are. Life Group Leaders are community-building strategists, caring friends, conversational evangelists, mentors, and companions in crisis.

In all these roles, Life Groups Leaders serve as the light of Christ to new students. Application to serve in a leadership position with such a significant level of responsibility is not something to be approached haphazardly. Leading a diverse group of approximately 15 freshmen requires maturity, discipline, and dedication.

Thankfully, no Life Group Leader is ever expected to be perfect, nor are they ever alone in the process of leading a Life Group. Partners, Family Groups, Leadership Team members, and the Life Group Leader community as a whole are excellent sources of accountability, encouragement, and wisdom for the work that lies ahead.

LEADER DETAILS

Life Group Leaders help new students establish themselves at Union University by fostering a meaningful community. Upperclassmen Life Group Leaders practice hospitality and share personal insight with new students as they take the first steps of their college experience.

Life Group Leaders commit to encouraging members of their Life Groups to cultivate healthy involvement on campus, in the Jackson community, and in a local church.

Life Groups Leaders collaborate with a partner as they work to accomplish the goals mentioned above in their Life Groups.

REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for the position of Life Group Leader, applicants must maintain a 2.75 GPA (per Union University policy), attend all mandatory training events (see the calendar below), be in good standing with the University, and have a demonstrable and growing relationship with Christ. Humility, maturity, and teamwork are considered essential attributes of a thriving Life Group Leader.

LIFE GROUP LEADER SELECTION

Upon submission of application, Life Group Leader candidates will be asked to submit a video introduction and sign up for an in-person interview. Once applicants have been interviewed, the Life Group Leader Selection Process will conclude, and Life Group Leadership positions will be offered on the Wednesday prior to Spring Break. Upon selection to serve as Life Group Leader, the first responsibility of new leaders is to celebrate and enjoy a spring semester of investment in the Life Group Leader community.

LIFE GROUP LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

Spring Semester

- Spring Training is specifically designed for leadership development, culture building, and relationship building. The concept of Life Groups originates from the Office of Student Discipleship and Engagement's desire to extend Biblical formation and care as part of the new student experience. Life Group Leaders will take ownership of that broader mission in the particular context of their partnership and Life Group.
- Considering the importance of strong partnerships, the beginning of Spring Training is committed to helping new leaders get to know each other.
- Once partnerships are announced, the primary objective of the last few weeks of the semester will be the development of Life Group Partnership Profiles. While every group shares the same overall aim of fostering community on campus, in our city, and in our churches, each individual group will have a unique focus and personality.

Fall Semester

- The Fall Training will be dedicated to preparing for the fall semester of Life Groups. Fall Training takes place during the days leading up to, and during, Welcome Week.
- During the first eight weeks of the first semester, Life Group Leaders will take advantage of every possible opportunity to gather their Life Groups together. The key to hospitality and community building is a healthy combination of intentionality and persistence.
- Not every incoming student will choose to make Life Groups their primary community, but Life Group Leaders are still dedicated to helping each individual take the steps that are best for them. Making time for each individual is an essential part of the ministry of Life Groups, and the friendships and mentorships that can develop from these personal settings are, perhaps, the most rewarding part of leading a Life Group.

- The first eight weeks of the semester are heavily involved and time-intensive, but Life Group Leaders are not expected to maintain such a torrid pace for the entire semester. Life Groups go through Fall Break, and groups are encouraged to spend time still together but are not expected to meet after the break.
- Throughout the eight weeks of Life Groups, there will be a few events that involve all the Life Group community. Leaders will be expected to attend these events with their students. One goal for Life Groups is that new students would have opportunities to build relationships with a variety of student leaders through various events.

DATES TO KNOW

Application Process

- January 26 – Applications and Video Introduction Due
- February 3-21 – Interviews for New and Returning Leaders
- February 26 – Life Group Leadership Positions Offered

Spring Dates

- March 10 – Training (4:45-6 pm)
- March 17 – Training (4:45-6 pm)
- March 28-29 – SD&E Training Weekend
- April 4 – 6pm – Partnerships Announced
- April 14 – Training- (4:45-6 pm)

Fall Dates

- August 8-10 – Early Move-in
- August 10-18– Training and New Student Events