



How to start a  
**CAMPUS  
BOOK  
CLUB**

*University campuses offer an excellent opportunity to reach thousands of young people who are open to new ideas. Setting up a book club to acquaint students with The Urantia Book is a rewarding activity for an individual, study group or society. Your efforts will have global influence as students return to their homes with knowledge about the Fifth Epochal Revelation - knowledge as important as any they have been exposed to in their student years.*

*This booklet provides information which you will need for focusing on a specific purpose, approaching the campus administration and helping you decide on the types of materials that will be most effective with students.*

*Also included in this booklet are suggestions on how to help your local Urantia Book community enjoy the many advantages of being a student body organization, especially the low-cost or free use of a great variety of campus facilities.*

## **THE ADVANTAGES OF A CAMPUS BOOK CLUB**

University campuses are one of the best mediums for Urantia Book outreach. They are full of the young people who will be dominating society tomorrow. What better place for the Urantia Book to be? The students' minds are open, they are seeking truth and the atmosphere is conducive to new ideas.

Thousands of young people from all over the world pass our Campus Book Club table every year. Not everyone stops, and those who do don't always end up reading The Urantia Book. But someday, when perhaps the Revelation crosses their path again, they'll remember having seen it. And that will lend it more authority.

Not only does a Campus Book Club offer you an opportunity to reach young people about The Urantia Book, but it also offers your reader community the chance to take advantage of the facilities on campus. For once you've established yourself as a student body organization, you have all of the liberties offered such a group, from use of the dorms and classrooms in the summertime for your local conferences and workshop facilities all year long. Here in Boulder, we utilize a beautiful historic auditorium for our special events and worship services. Because we don't charge for the events, it's free.

## **WHAT A CAMPUS BOOK CLUB CAN DO**

There are no limits as to what you can do with the outreach medium of a campus book club. You decide what your goal will be, how much time you have to give to it and what sort of community participation you can bring in from your Urantia society or study group.

Once you've become a student body organization, your interaction with other philosophy or religious clubs on campus can bring you the opportunity to dialogue with like-minded students or groups. We've set up series of debates with

representatives from the Baha'i faith, Jews for Jesus, fundamentalist Christians and atheists. At these debates, The Urantia Book became recognized as a valid "religion" that was being represented on campus. We've also broadcast talk shows on the campus radio station.

You can have a regular study group on campus or present day-long seminars and workshops for the students. One of the ways in which we've let students know about our activities has been by printing up short quotes from The Urantia Book and pinning them up on the numerous bulletin boards that flank each hall in every building on campus. We put a name and number with the quotes, or the date of an event or study group.

The main way in which we endeavor to reach the students is our weekly "booth" which is set up in the hallway of the Student Activities Center on campus. Along with several other groups, we display books and pamphlets and remain available for questions and discussion with anyone who wants to find out more about The Urantia Book. Thousands of students have at least seen the sign that says "The Urantia Book" and many of them have stopped and leafed through the pages, taken brochures, or asked for copies of the book.

## **HOW TO START YOUR CLUB**

Begin the process by finding out what the layout is for your club's exposure. Most universities, especially in the student unions, have a format for certain hours for groups to set up booths to try to raise funds for their groups or expose their groups to the people going through the student unions. Once you find out what's going on and how best to approach it, you will probably need to find two or three students on campus to be a part of your club to begin with. If need be, you can take evening courses to qualify as a member of the student body.

One of the angles which we had to navigate was the reluctance of the university to engage religious groups. Normally, they don't like them because they're worried about whether or not you're going to be a "cult" that is going to pressure the kids. We presented ourselves as a book club. We told them that the book was a study of holistic life. We've been criticized for it, but, hey, we got in there. Once you're in the system, and that usually means opening an account with the finance department (for space rental or use of services in the future,) and filling out various forms, you're afforded the same liberties as any other student body. You can interface with other groups or be represented at fairs, for instance. You can even get funding for your activities from the university.

### **THE BOOK CLUB BOOTH**

Setting up a booth can be a good way to begin your interface with the campus. Normally, tables and chairs are provided free of charge.

We use a standard 6 foot banquet table. We display three Urantia Books - two open to various positions on the right and left, and one in the center with the white cover on it. Behind it, we have two books, the Concordex and the Paramony. We have a brochure dispenser that a local reader built for us that holds 8 different brochures. You can order Urantia Book brochures for this purpose from Fifth Epochal Fellowship, 529 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago IL 60614, or from Jesusonian Foundation, PO Box 18764, Boulder, CO 80308. Next to the brochure dispenser, we display a beautiful graph chart entitled "The Evolution of Life on Earth" from the Urantia Book which you could order from Don Green, 4781 White Rock Circle #B, Boulder, CO 80301. It's nice to have so that students can see that the book is keeping step with science.

It's important to make the table as attractive as possible. We cover the table with a dark blue cloth, with a sign hanging down in front that says "The Urantia Book Club."

## APPROACHING THE STUDENTS

I've learned that it isn't always appropriate to sit at The Urantia Book Club booth. You may need to test this idea. But I've found that, because I'm older, they're a little less likely to warm up to me. They don't want to get involved with someone their parents' age. Kids at that age are vulnerable. If they get stopped at one of these booths, they can get stuck listening to something they might not be interested in, and they'll never forget it. So consequently, I keep a low profile. They're more apt to stop and feel safe to look through the book and the brochures when I'm not sitting behind the table. And then if they're there for any length of time, I casually walk over and say, "If there are any questions I can answer, don't hesitate to ask." If they back up, I back up and return to where I was and sit down. I stay around, but I'm not at the table.

It's important to realize that we aren't going to have students sitting at our feet, drinking in all of our wonderful spiritual knowledge. Whatever else you have in mind with your goals and your activities, being respectful of these young people should always remain your top priority. They're a tough audience, but they're definitely worth it. These students are the future of our planet. A campus book club can reach them and help bring The Urantia Revelation into the next generation.

Don C...