A picture containing night sky

Description automatically generated

**Text

Description automatically generated with low confidence**

**Building your Students for Contemporary Sciences Chapter**

1. **Advertising and Recruiting**
   1. **Tabling**

Tabling is an established recruitment tool. Many schools provide space for organizations to reserve for tabling efforts. Popular recruitment locations include outside of dining halls or in other highly trafficked areas. Some schools have student activity fairs or other events for organizations to advertise. Reserving a table at these events can get your Chapter noticed.

Try to set up regular tabling efforts at the beginning of each semester or term. While tabling provide informational one-pagers or pamphlets for interested students to take with them. Be sure to include a sign-up sheet for interested students to write down their name and email address to stay informed of future Chapter meetings and events.

A good tip for tabling is to offer snacks. If your community has a local plant-based restaurant, this could be a good opportunity to share some of their food. You can always go simple! Oreos are always a winner.

Swag: Your Chapter may receive funding for swag like tote bags, water bottles, or stickers. These can be great for tabling events and advertising in general. CCS can provide some general materials to help you get started.

* 1. **Posting in Relevant Classes**

Some schools offer classes that are relevant to the mission of CCS and Student Chapters. Ask professors of these classes to “advertise” chapter events. Professors are generally willing to inform their classes of events and organizations that may be of interest to them. This advertising could be professors themselves informing their classes of Chapter events or allowing Chapter members a few minutes before or after class to present the organization or events to their classes.

Feel free to provide slides that professors can incorporate to the end of their lectures.

* 1. **Info Sessions**

Info sessions can be a great way to bring new members to your Chapter. Each term or semester, try to host one or two sessions designed for non-members. In these sessions, provide introductory materials explaining how the Chapter is run. These materials can including how meetings are generally run and the specific topics that you tend to discuss.

In these sessions, introduce the Center for Contemporary Sciences and how your Chapter contributes to supporting the CCS mission. These sessions can also introduce interested members to any recurring events your Chapter hosts such as a symposium in the spring or a large event for World Microphysiological Systems Day.

* 1. **Social Media**

Social Media can be a great tool to advertise your Chapter events and build membership. Feel free to start a Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, or Facebook account for your Chapter. These pages can be useful in advertising your events and setting up regular meeting schedules. It is good to note, that social media pages should not replace your Chapter’s regular email list to be used for important updates.

* 1. **Low-pressure Events**

Not all Chapter events need to be large undertakings. Low-pressure events like game night or trivia night may help your Chapter members bond and remove some social pressure.

1. **Holding your first meeting – Students for Contemporary Sciences 101**

Members of your chapter may have different levels of background knowledge about issues CCS and your Chapter are interested in. In order to get everyone on the same page, holding an initial 101 meeting that covers the focus of the Chapter may be a good idea.

**Three Focus Areas:**

1. Replacement of animal testing with better, human-relevant methods
   1. What are human-relevant methods?
      1. Organ chips
      2. Sophisticated computer modeling, *in silico* models
      3. Organoids
      4. AI
   2. Why human-relevant models over animal testing?
   3. What are the current issues and where do we want to go in the future?
2. Pandemic prevention through the reduction/elimination of animal industries
   1. What is the relationship between animal industries and pandemic risk?
      1. Wildlife Trade Issues
         1. Pet trade
         2. Fur farms
      2. Animal Agriculture Issues
         1. Factory farms
         2. Wet markets
   2. What are the current issues and where do we want to go in the future?
3. Environmental protection
   1. What is the relationship between environmental protection and public health?
   2. How do animal industries impact environmental protection?
4. **Funding your Chapter**

Your school may offer official student groups funding. This funding can be used to help your Chapter put on events, purchase food, supplies, or swag. Your school’s student activities office should be able to help your Chapter secure funding.

1. **Student Grants**

Your school, CCS, or other organizations may offer grants that your Chapter or individual members can apply for to hold certain events or work on campaigns. You should check within different departments of your school to see if they offer grants that are suitable.

1. **On-campus Fundraising**

Your Chapter can engage in on-campus fundraising events such as bake sales. The funds that you raise should be used exclusively for your Student Chapter and you are not to raise money on the behalf of CCS.

1. **Organizing Events**

An important part of running a student organization is organizing events for your Chapter to host. Planning events can help your members build their skill set as leaders. Advocates, and organizers.

There are a variety or events that Student chapters can put on ranging from guest speakers to week long celebrations or even a symposium. As a CCS student chapter, we ask that your Chapter hosts at least one recurring event per semester or term. These will be events that are held each year and will held to build out recognition for your Chapter. Additional events should also be organized in addition these recurring events. Some event suggestions are below.

* 1. **Guest Speakers**

Invite speakers from your school faculty, a CCS team member or advisor, public health or biotech experts, or anyone else who works on tissue engineering, organoids, computational modeling, climate change, pandemic prevention, toxicology, public health policy, zoonotic disease, or infectious disease in line with the mission of CCS and the Chapter.

* 1. **Campus-wide Symposiums**

Hosting a symposium can be a great way to engage more than just your membership. Events like this can get students and faculty excited about the mission of your Chapter. A Symposium allows you to bring in experts who a making a difference or who have direct experience in non-animal testing methods, pandemic prevention, and environmental protection to speak to your peers and professors interested in using science to find solutions that improve the health and well-being of humans, animals, and the planet.

Hosting an event like this is not easy, but can be extremely impactful. A way to make a hosting a symposium less daunting is to team up with Chapters from other schools and plan a regional event. You could even team up with other organizations within your school community who have similar missions to host a joint event.

* 1. **Movie Screening**

There are a number of documentaries that discuss the relationship between humane health and animal industries. Have members of your chapter suggest their favorite or one they have been wanting to see and host a screening night.

Movie nights do not need to be limited to documentaries. Other movies have themes that relate to the Chapter and CCS’s mission. For example, some horror movies about disease often show the relationship of zoonotic disease and animal industries.

* 1. **Book Club**

Hosting a Chapter book club is a great way to keep your members involved throughout the year. Members can take turns suggesting books on relevant topic. During your monthly meetings, you can set out some time to discuss your member’s thoughts on the reading.

* 1. **“Bring your own article” Event**

Your members may not be as interested or have the time for a book club. A “Bring your own article” or Journal Club event works in a similar manner. Members and other students who are interested can bring in a peer reviewed article they have read and find interesting and share it with the Chapter. This is a great event to share new information in the field and kick-start meaningful discussions.