



SCHOOL CLUB HANDBOOK

The mission of ARPA Canada is to educate, equip, and encourage Reformed Christians to political action and to bring a biblical perspective to our civil authorities.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

01. WHAT IS AN ARPA SCHOOL CLUB?

HOW DO I START AN ARPA SCHOOL CLUB?

02. HOW SHOULD ARPA SCHOOL CLUBS OPERATE?

WHAT DO SCHOOL CLUBS DO?

04. WHAT DOES THE SCHOOL CLUB PRESIDENT DO?

WHAT DOES THE TEACHER, SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR, OR PARENT LEADER DO?

LEADERBOARDS

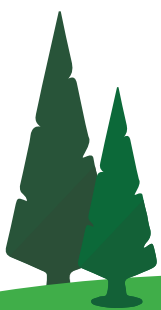
05. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WHAT IS AN ARPA SCHOOL CLUB?

ARPA school clubs are made up of students from local Reformed schools who work together to engage with political issues from a Christian perspective. They do activities as a club but they also try to get their entire school community more politically engaged.

HOW DO I START A SCHOOL CLUB?

- Invite an ARPA Canada staff member or local ARPA Chapter member to introduce the school club idea to the school.
 - Set up a time for your first meeting during lunch break or other opening in the schedule.
 - Create an agenda for the first meeting, including time to pick 4 or 5 project ideas to pursue during the school year.
 - Elect a student leader or president.
 - Find a teacher, school administrator, or parent to oversee the school club. The adult should attend most school club meetings to help turn the interest and enthusiasm into practical and realistic action. The adult should also approve each activity before it is done.
 - Encourage as many students as possible to join and/or participate.
 - Start planning your projects. Be sure to confirm who is taking the lead and what date you are hoping to see the activity done.
- As with all ARPA groups, success will depend largely on individual initiative and interest. As much as possible, students should follow their passion and work with issues/people/events that they believe are important.
- Meet every 2-4 weeks. Meeting too often may result in disinterest or loss of energy, and too infrequently can result in a lack of activity. Of course, as an event nears, more meetings may be required. Pick the date of your next meeting at the close of each meeting. It is up to the president to call the next meeting.
- For each meeting, we recommend you include time to discuss two of ARPA's core principles (arpacanada.ca/about-arpa/core-principles/), looking up the relevant Bible passages and confessions, working through them all throughout the school year.



HOW SHOULD ARPA SCHOOL CLUBS OPERATE?

The school club is expected to:

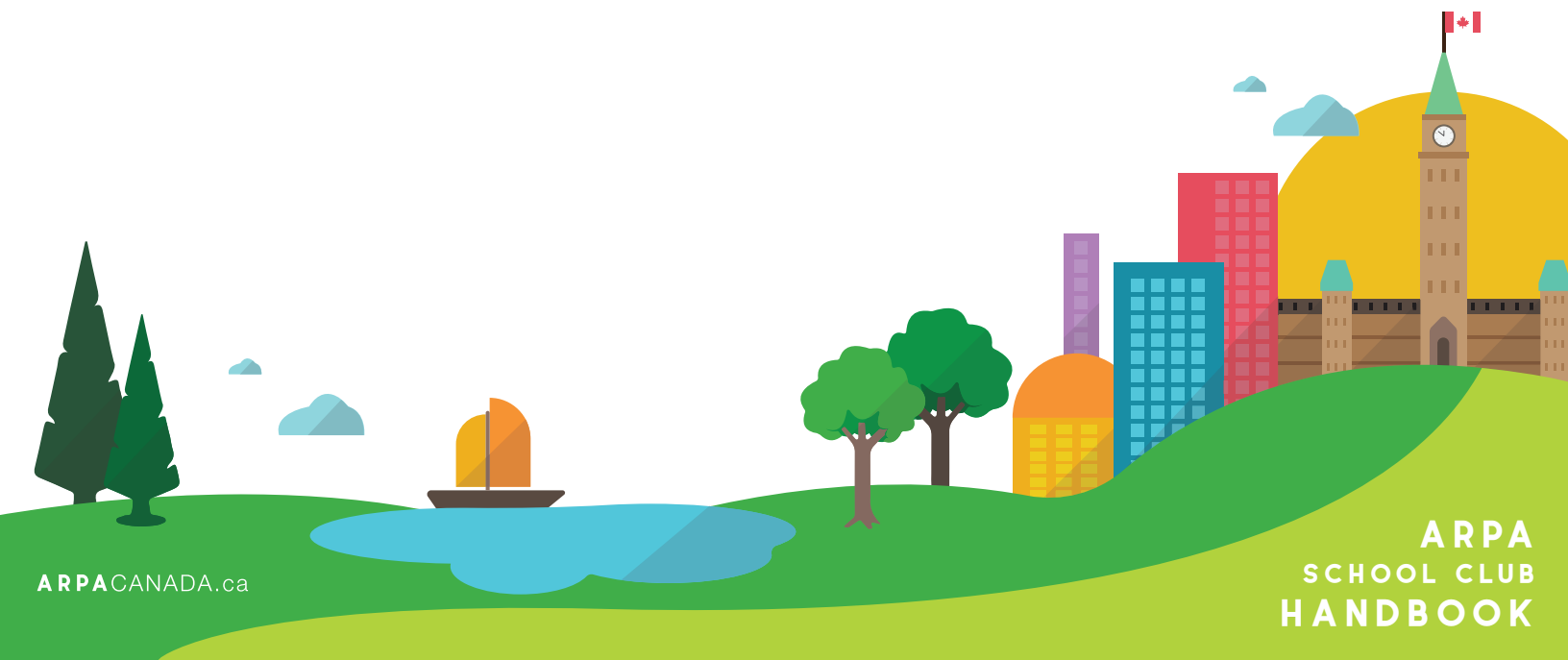
- Always conduct itself as ambassadors of Jesus Christ, exemplifying both grace and truth.
- Support and affirm ARPA Canada's Core Principles (see arpacanada.ca/about-arpa/core-principles).
- Be non-partisan; the purpose of a school club is to further biblical principles and values, not advance or hinder parties or candidates.
- Ensure ARPA Canada is aware of events being held, both for accountability and for spreading the word as an encouragement to others.
- Coordinate with the ARPA Canada provincial managers.

WHAT DO SCHOOL CLUBS DO?

At the start of the year, the school club should pick four (or more) activities to complete throughout the school year. You can either brainstorm your own activities or choose some of the following:

- Have the students and staff sign government petitions about current political and legal issues to be passed to local MPs or MLAs and MPPs. Be plugged into ARPA Canada's newsletter to find new petitions or ask the provincial manager.
- Organize EasyMail tutorials for the students during a computer class and then send off an EasyMail to your federal MP and your provincial MPP/MLA.
- Create an ARPA information bulletin board with up-to-date information on action items, pressing issues, and political news.
- Organize a school assembly or special presentation (e.g. abortion, human trafficking, free speech, euthanasia) with the school's permission. Be in touch with ARPA Canada for ideas about potential speakers, including ARPA staff. The more advance notice ARPA Canada has, the more likely they can provide a speaker.
- Invite an elected representative to speak to a class or assembly on a specific topic and then engage in a Q&A session.

- Collect resources/funds/supplies for a local pregnancy care centre (e.g. car seats, formula, baby food, clothes, strollers) and then organize a school club trip to visit the centre with the supplies.
- Host a pro-life flag display in your community. There are display kits of 10,000 flags available in BC, Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario.
- Do a poster contest and invite students to submit poster designs in two or three categories (e.g. abortion, euthanasia, environment, education, family). Plan a prize for the winners and hang the posters in the school, or on sign posts throughout the community.
- Host a contest for letters written to an MP, MPP, MLA, or local elected representatives (handwritten ones get extra points). [Easymail.arpacanada.ca](https://easymail.arpacanada.ca) has several topics and talking points that students can use to help write a letter to their elected representatives. You can award prizes for 'best handwritten letter' or 'letter that received the best response from the recipient' or other prizes.
- Host a contest for letters published in a local newspaper. Letters to the editors of newspapers and magazines are a free and very effective means to be a voice for truth, grace, justice, and common sense in our communities. Letters should be on topics that relate to ARPA's mission of bringing a Christian perspective to the public square. You could have prizes for 'article published in largest newspaper' or 'best-written article published' or separate prizes for different topics (e.g. abortion or family). ARPA has created a contest like this nationally that you could also do in your school: <https://arpacanada.ca/news/2017/02/22/letter-editor-contest/>
- Attend the March for Life in May. Organize a bus to drive students to the event and encourage students to make homemade signs for the march.



WHAT DOES THE SCHOOL CLUB PRESIDENT DO?

- Keep the adult representative (teacher, school administrator, or parent) informed about the ongoing activities, successes, and challenges of the school club.
- Provide updates for the entire school, if approved by the school administration.
- Stay in touch with ARPA Canada's Grassroots Manager.
- Organize the next meeting.
- Have an agenda for each meeting that includes an action plan for the next activity.
- Lead the meetings so they stay on time and focused.

WHAT DOES THE TEACHER, SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR, OR PARENT LEADER DO?

Try as much as possible to keep a hands-off approach when overseeing the school club. If the school club is starting up, find one interested student to run the first meeting, give them a brief agenda with some of the ideas above, and then let them pick a president and pick their action items for the year. From there you can guide them as they go through the planning stages for each activity. Encourage them to pick the date for their next meeting after each meeting.

That all said, don't hesitate to step in wherever the school club could use your assistance.

LEADERBOARDS

We have a new initiative called ARPA Leaderboards. This is a friendly competition between school clubs with a chance to win some really cool prizes for the schools and students who do the most political action over the school year. All students must do is engage in political action to earn points for their school club. At the end of the year, there are individual and school club championship prizes, including banners, trophies, pizza parties, T-shirts, school bragging rights, and more! In order to claim points, each student must sign up for an ARPA profile at profiles.arpacanada.ca/joinClub. Go to youtube.com/watch?v=SpfmOZebM3I&ab_channel=ARPACanada to view a YouTube video for an explanation of how this works.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

We have some monthly activity suggestions below. Another suggestion is to find something on a federal, provincial, and local level to do each month or choose one for each meeting.

MONTH	ACTION ITEM
SEPTEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign up for leaderboards with your entire school club. • Do a Signs Up on the street.
OCTOBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to a youth conference near you! • Sign your school club up to volunteer with set-up at your local Fall Tour stop.
NOVEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer at your local Fall Tour. • Place a sign in your neighborhood repping the We Need a Law or Care Not Kill message!
DECEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write Christmas cards to your elected representatives. • Sing Christmas carols for the seniors in your church or at a local care home.
JANUARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a letter to your local newspaper editor using EasyLetter. • Send a Care Not Kill EasyMail.
FEBRUARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize a trip to meet your federal MP, provincial MPP/MLA, or local mayor/councilor/school trustee.
MARCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send your representative a postcard. Upload photos to ARPA Leaderboards for points! • Signs Up - Stand on a street corner for an hour with the message “Canada has no Abortion Laws.” Submit pictures on the feed. Points awarded upon completion.
APRIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes being politically active is as simple as writing a thank-you card to someone. Post to the feed for points!
MAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in a local March for Life. • Find out where your closest pregnancy care center is located; call them to find out what they need – diapers, clothing, gas and grocery gift cards... arrange a time to drop off a donation. Share the experience in the ARPA feed for points!
JUNE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you're graduating this year, make sure you have a personal email address registered with ARPA Canada, not a school one, so you can keep receiving our newsletters!



info@arpacanada.ca | 1866.691.2772
130 Albert Street, Suite 1705,
Ottawa Ontario K1P 5G4

Follow us on:



Visit our website:
ARPACANADA.ca