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# MiGen Leads

## GROUP GUIDE: HIGH SCHOOL

**PROMOTING LIFE-AFFIRMING  
CHOICES THAT EMPOWER WOMEN!**



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# OVERVIEW

MiGen Leads is a broad group of students from all backgrounds and walks of life committed to advocating for a choice for life and supporting women in need. As the student and young adult outreach arm of Right to Life of Michigan (RLM), we adhere to the RLM Mission Statement and Goals found at RTL.org and seek to build a culture in which all life is welcomed, valued and supported.

# ABOUT US

Right to Life of Michigan (RLM), our 83 affiliates, MiGen Leads groups across the state, and thousands of volunteers from all walks of life seek to build a society which welcomes and supports life at all stages.

With life advocates and volunteers in every community, extensive educational resources, and long-standing partnerships with many of the state's approximately 100 Pregnancy Resource Centers, RLM aims to be a lifeline to you and your community. We offer resources, staff experts, and volunteers committed to help you build a practical path forward bringing hope and happiness in making a choice for life.

The broad life ethic upon which we draw characterizes the great movements of history and represents the best of humanity. It invites us to reject the failed, dangerous ideologies which suggest individual or societal ills are born from "the other" – "the other" race, religion, gender, ethnicity...or stage in life. This ethic has given us hope and led us to victory on behalf of the oppressed in otherwise dark hours. And, today, this same life ethic thrives throughout communities, schools, and churches in our state.

**We are here to stand with you. No one in Michigan should feel they are alone when faced with a decision for life: a personal decision, a consideration to help a friend, a hope to educate your school or community or just a question to learn more. We aim to walk alongside you.**

We are committed to affirming the best of our movement's traditions, to peacefully advocating for the right to life of all in our human family, to closing gaps that may exist between principles and practices, while facing, with vision and determination, the challenges presented to women today. We do this through education and training sessions, community events, legislation, and political activism.

Your humanity and the humanity of the frightened woman or girl and her growing unborn child, or the disabled neighbor or family friend, or the frail grandmother or terminally ill husband is not in question. May we achieve a society in which our choices reflect this beautiful reality.



# STARTING A GROUP

For any questions and guidance setting up your group, please contact Jazlyn Bailey, Right to Life of Michigan's MiGen Leads Coordinator, at [jbailey@rtl.org](mailto:jbailey@rtl.org) or (616) 532-2300.

- 1 BUILD A CORE TEAM.** Every club needs a solid foundation to be successful. The core group members must be dedicated the mission of Right to Life of Michigan, as well as volunteering and serving in leadership roles. Groups will not stay active without key members staying involved. This core group should be at least five people who bring a range of skills and motivation.
- 2 MAKE IT OFFICIAL.** You will need to find a teacher or administrator at your high school to be your advisor. They will help you coordinate with your school. You will also need to become recognized as a club by your school. This includes going to your school office and asking how this process works since it differs by school. You also need to ask your main office if a permission slip to stay after school and be in a club is required for all students.
- 3 SCHEDULE A MEETING.** Once you have your core group organized and an advisor you can schedule your first meeting. The best meeting time will be weekdays right after school. Your meeting should not exceed one hour in length. Pick a time and a location (your advisor can help with this). Ideally, your advisor is a teacher, and you can hold meetings in their classroom. Advertise your meeting by putting up flyers if your school allows this, by word of mouth and other means available at your school. A sample flyer can be found on page 11 of this guide. If you have a school newspaper or student announcements, this is a good place to share the meeting time and location.

# FIRST MEETING AGENDA

- Sign up sheet
- Introductions/Ice breaker
- What is MiGen Leads?
- Mission Statement (RLM)
- About Us
- Values
- Next Steps
- Brainstorm events/  
activities of interest
- Meeting #2 plans  
(date/location/time)

## NOTES:

### Reminders:

- Do not exceed one hour
- Remind others of light refreshments available
- Agree on day/time/location to meet every week





# GENERAL RULES

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in this club is open to any student attending the school committed to our mission. Members are expected to behave in a respectful and appropriate manner at all times during club activities.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Members are encouraged to attend all meetings and events. Club officers should be present at all meetings and events. You should let people know this during elections to avoid conflicts in the future. Your advisor should be present at every meeting.

## **FLYERS AND MATERIALS**

Flyers and other materials for the public need to come from RLM. If you have a suggested design template you would like to see available, please contact the MiGen Leads Coordinator who is located in our State Office (Grand Rapids). If you have a flyer you created, you can email it to the MiGen Leads Coordinator for approval to use in public settings. Social media created by your MiGen Leads group to represent your club should also be consistent with RLM's policies and message.

RLM does not encourage the use of graphic photography (victim imagery) in public settings where young children can view them and where people are not warned about them. We do this out of respect for others. Please contact your MiGen Leads Coordinator if you think these photos would be acceptable in a certain situation and advice will be given.

# MEETING RECOMMENDATIONS

## GETTING STARTED

Your first meeting will be led by the MiGen Leads Coordinator.

After your kickoff meeting, schedule meetings for the remainder of the academic year at a regular occurring time. Figure out a day, time and location that works consistently to meet every other week. If your group is highly active, consider meeting every week. After the day, time and location are chosen, you can then promote your club on flyers around your high school to recruit new members. On these flyers, make sure to include your club name, time, date, and location of the meeting. Note that refreshments will be available.

## SCHOOL YEAR MONTHS

These months should be filled with prolife speakers, videos, movies, educational presentations, and events you put together. It is important to stay involved with your location RLM affiliate. There are always big events in the fall to attend such as your local affiliate's Focus on Life dinner, the new March for Life in Lansing, the March for Life in D.C., prolife conferences, and other educational events. The MiGen Leads Coordinator will update you in the monthly meeting about what is going on around you and statewide.

## DURING THE SUMMER

During the summer, school won't be in session, but MiGen Leads challenges you to keep your group active in some way. A schedule of events can be found on [rtl.org](http://rtl.org).

## CONSISTENCY IN MEETINGS

A general rule for meetings is to keep them at or under one hour long. You should provide light refreshments at meetings when possible. Ideally, the whole year is planned out in advance including meetings and events. At first, you may only have a month schedule in advance. As your club grows, it is important to keep working on a consistent schedule for the year.

# OFFICERS

Many groups need more than just one leader to accomplish their goals. If you have a large enough group you should consider having other officers or board members. These officers should be reliable members of your core group who can help the entire school year. Give your officers their own defined responsibilities.



## **PRESIDENT**

Announces and advertises meetings. The president creates and distributes the agenda for all general meetings. Presides over meetings and provides leadership to the group. The president is in charge of communication with the MiGen Leads Coordinator and the local RLM affiliate.



## **VICE PRESIDENT**

Performs the duties of the president in their absence. Gives advice to the president on overall group leadership.



## **SECRETARY**

Takes notes at meetings. Keeps a folder of all group records. Assists other officers as needed.



## **TREASURER**

Keeps a record of the group's income and expenses. Helps organize fundraising needed.

## **ELECTION**

Officers can be all elected, or you can hold an election for just president and have him or her appoint the officers.

Elections should be held before the end of the school year to give leaders time to plan and train over the summer vacation. Holding elections at the beginning of the school year could make your group lose valuable time during a busy season while leaders are found, and attendance could suffer.

Because students graduate and will leave the group, it is important that officers should always be looking for replacements and training other members to help with their tasks.





# FUNDRAISING & ACTIVITIES

- Diaper Drive
- Tabling
- Chalking + Rock Painting
- Car Wash
- National Pro-life T-shirt Week
- Fun Cards for Nursing Homes
- Bake Sale
- Food/Beverage Stand
- Book Drive to Donate to a Local Daycare
- Yard Work/Shoveling for Elderly
- Pro-life Day of Silent Solidarity

Make sure you explain to people how MiGen Leads will be using the donations.

# ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Make prolife signs
- Show prolife movies
- Write letters to nursing homes
- Collect diapers - daycares or moms
- Sidewalk discussions
- Volunteer at a PRC
- Make a "blessing bag"
- Volunteer at a local nonprofit
- Walk elderly people's dogs
- Take donations for a homeless shelter
- Host a baby shower
- Collect donations - Veteran's Home
- Invite a prolife speaker
- Watch a prolife webinar
- Volunteer with local affiliate
- Sponsor a child in need
- Donate - Foster Closet of Michigan
- Collect and donate toys for children
- Help an elderly person with groceries
- Help in your school ASD class
- Host booth at school event
- Plant a community garden - donate
- Volunteer at a prolife church
- Food pantry donations
- Support a pregnant student
- Donate to domestic violence shelters
- Wellness bags for homeless
- Read prolife books to children
- Contact reps about local issues
- Teach how to register to vote
- Donate to children in hospitals
- Birthday cards for shelters
- Volunteer for Special Olympics
- Lunch to homeless
- Prayer gathering for other students
- Mother's Day cards to nursing homes
- Donate games to a classroom
- Donate necessities to foster families
- Hot chocolate handout
- Attend affiliate dinner

If you need help doing any events or need advice, contact  
Jazlyn Bailey at [jbailey@rtl.org](mailto:jbailey@rtl.org) or (616) 532-2300



# KEEP IT GOING

**1 HAVE AWESOME MEETINGS.** Nobody likes a boring meeting, they should be both fun and informative. For active groups you should meet once a week! The meetings should be an hour or less and have planned activities. You can have a speaker from a prolife group or pregnancy center, watch an educational video, listen to the LifeBeat Podcast while doing activities, or plan your next event.

**2 RECRUIT, RECRUIT, RECRUIT!** All meetings should have sign up sheets for new members. Your members should always be proactive in growing your membership. By growing your base you have new members with fresh ideas to keep the club going when older members graduate.

Stand up and stand out to get new members. If you want to make a difference you have to be dedicated! Invite your friends who don't know if they are prolife or not.

**3 KEEP MEMBERS INVOLVED.** This will be one of your biggest challenges. Members need to be asked to help or volunteer regularly. Groups should always be doing something. You should ask new members about their interests and ways they would like to help.

Invite members to meet with officers who share similar interests. Whether the president does it or the officers split it up, they should keep in contact with all members regularly, it might be best to make a GroupMe for your club. If members haven't attended for awhile invite them back to a meeting or event.

You are not alone! Your MiGen Leads Coordinator  
and your local affiliate are always here to help you!



**NEW CLUB**

# MiGen Leads

Promote life-affirming choices for women.  
Educate your school and community on prolife issues.  
Take part in service projects.

<b>When:</b>	<b>Where:</b>
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**For more information contact:**





# RESOURCES

## EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Educational materials for tabling, printing and sharing are available at [RTL.org](http://RTL.org). LifeNotes are very informative and would serve as great resources to keep in a binder kept by the secretary for printing and distributing. LifeNotes on our website cover all of the prolife topics. Fact sheets are available on all life issues. The educational resource centers below have materials on abortion, euthanasia, adoption, types of abortion, and other prolife topics. They also provide prolife books to check out.

## EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTERS

### State Office

2340 Porter St. SW  
P.O. Box 901  
Grand Rapids, MI  
49509  
(616) 532-2300

### Macomb County

27417 Harper  
St. Clair Shores, MI  
48081  
(586) 774-6050

### Wayne County

2010 Eureka Rd.  
Wyandotte, MI  
48192  
(734) 282-6100

### Mid Michigan Resource Center

233 N. Walnut St.  
Lansing, MI  
48933  
(517) 487-3376

## CRISIS HOTLINE

The 1-800-57WOMAN number operated by CareNet offers 24/7 care to women facing unplanned pregnancies or a woman struggling with abortion.

## MIGEN LEADS COORDINATOR

If you ever need help, you can contact the MiGen Leads Coordinator at the State Office. To find your local RTL affiliate you can go to [RTL.org/affiliates](http://RTL.org/affiliates).

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