

I'm interested in being a Regional Officer, What Do I Do?

How should I prepare myself and when do I get started?

FIRST: Know that it starts right now! People always say opportunity only knocks once... well we are here to tell you that opportunity is knocking every single second. Every second of the day is an opportunity to make yourself better, to hone your skill at something. And by doing this, You Create the Larger Opportunities. You are instilled with all the power of God (the Christ within), and you are a co-creator with God.

SECOND: This is not about you. This is about serving for the betterment of the Region. Do you benefit from being a Regional Officer? Yes! Does it feel great to lead the Region? Yes! But, at the same time the personal Ego (Edging God Out) must be set aside so that God can flow through you. This next year, two years, or even three years (however much time is between now and when you apply) is about making yourself the best you can be so that if you are chosen to lead you are in Your Most Capable State to do so. You can view this time as a creation of a better you, a you that is more knowing and capable of pure service to the region, a you that channels God more directly and powerfully.

THIRD: You Are Entirely Capable. You are no different than any other Regional Officer, past or present. It's not like they have more God or more gifts than you do... it is only a matter of realizing that the God within you and uncovering it... allow yourself to be great!

The rest of this packet will focus on helping guide you through these three things and gain a better view of Regional Office.

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Have you Ever Thought of: Becoming a Regional Officer???

Even if it only passed through your head once or twice, or even if you are only a freshman, then this is the page for you. Also it is important to know all these things so you can make a more educated vote at June Bi-Regional Rally.

What Does It Take And How Do You Get There? **Regional Officer Skills**

Spirituality

Essentially this is what the position is all about: knowing, feeling, and living that spiritual connection; through this process you teach others. To become a Regional Officer you must be comfortable with your own spiritual connection and you must be aligned with and grounded in Unity principles. To do so, start using prayer and meditation as tools in your life. Also, start defining your own beliefs to yourself... what is happiness, what is love, where does hate come from, what is transcendence? You might consider reading the ancient scriptures... begin with the Bible, Tao Te Ching, Buddhist writings. All of them provide great inspiration. Just keep in mind Your Spirituality = Your Responsibility.

Work Ethic

Planning is great!!!! But dedication is what makes those plans reality. Sometimes this does mean sacrificing an evening with friends, or an outing to the movies, but of course it is more than worth it when you see all your plans manifest into the beauty you knew it would be. To get a handle on this one the best advice is to build up to it. It's kind of like a runner preparing for a marathon. If they just went out and ran it they would get exhausted and quit. But if you build up gradually it is more than manageable. It may sound weird but just practice doing all your homework on time and to the best of your ability. Challenge yourself to do your best on all of it even if it means skipping that movie. Also start stepping up to greater responsibilities within your chapter.

Organization

THIS IS A MUST!!!!!!!

To practice this skill start to keep all your school papers more organized, and if you hold a position in your Y.O.U. chapter make yourself a binder to keep track of all the paperwork. Essentially just practice keeping things more organized than they need to be (binders are ooooh soo helpful).

Learn to smile through all your work

Tell your Sponsor now, so that they can support you through the process.

You already have all² these skills. You just have to tap into them and practice them

Visioning Skills

Trying to work without a vision is much like walking around with your eyes closed. You don't know where you are trying to go and so you do know which steps to take to get to where you want to go. With a vision you will be able to determine exactly what you need to do to achieve that vision. To improve your visioning skills, work on looking at things that you perceive as problems either in your life, or in your chapter. Once you pinpoint them think of ways that you can improve things in that area. The ideal state that you would like to rise up to becomes your vision. Once again just practice, practice, practice.

*Even if you do not hold a role within your chapter leadership team yet, you can still do this and then work to implement your vision, trust us your whole chapter will appreciate it!

Remember stress is something you let yourself experience. Practice releasing this pointless emotional state.

Regional Officer Skills

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Charisma

It may seem odd that charisma is something that you need, but remember that being a Regional Officer requires being ON STAGE (eek?). Not only do you have to be on stage but you need to be able to convey the message that needs to get across. Without this fundamental skill you will be stuck with the message in your head, and Y.O.U. will be stuck waiting for it. To get this skill you need to practice a couple things. Assembling information in ways people can understand, and then sharing that information without freezing up, or stumbling over it. To help with this you may want to start by leading prayers, then meditations, and finally lessons in your chapter, and eventually maybe for your church congregation. Also, you know all those icky little reports in school, well just look at those as practice grounds for this!

Leadership

Leadership is about hard work and empowering individuals to be the best that they can be. Whether it is to get a project done, or just hanging around, if you can't empower those around you things are bound to fall apart. When you do empower individuals you will see more beauty than you thought possible. The best way to attain a skill like this is just to practice it again and again... and again. Step up into a leadership role within your chapter. Work as hard as you can within that role, and remember you want to affirm people's ability to succeed, give praise, and empower them to do what needs to get done.

Communication

When you are a regional officer you are a member of a team. You have to be able to communicate with the Regional Consultants, the other Regional Officers, as well as the region. Communication brings the team together and makes them work more efficiently. To help with this skill, make it a habit of responding to e-mails, as soon as you get them. If someone sends you a card write them one back within a day. If you get a message call that person back before you go on to do anything else.

***** These are not things that will magically be instilled in you when you are elected to office.*****

If you have not practiced these skills when you go in, you will have to work on them while you are working on completing the Regional work. That is why you should start working on these things now. There is never a better time than right now, because 1 minute, 1 day, 1 month from now will always be just that far away. Even if you don't start working on all of them right away, start on some. And remember just doing little things is better than doing nothing at all. If you want more advice (even if you are only a freshman) on what you can do to start preparing ask your Regional Consultant.

Skill Builders

Both pages of Regional Officers Skills should have given you a better sense of the skills required of Regional Officers. As was stated before you are a Co-Creator of your opportunities, and you can co-create the opportunity of becoming a Regional Officer by honing your skills. Listed below are some places where you can improve your abilities in the skill areas listed on the previous two pages.

With Yourself

- Start a daily regiment of prayer / meditation.
- Create your personal intentions list and Vision/Mission statements.
- Start reading Charles Fillmore (found at <http://websyte.com/unity/fillmore.htm>) books or other spiritual books.
- Start reading the Bible (and processing/interpreting what you read) and other religious texts
- Start over achieving in school... your work ethic will carry over (if you can sacrifice an evening with friends to study for a test then you will also be able to do it for Regional Work).
- Keep everything organized.
- Pay attention to the Region and how it works. Start making a list of everything that could be improved or added to the Region. (Are the Unity Principles covered well enough? Are there other spiritual principles that are missed? Are the Policies and Procedures being followed? Could there be more and better communication? Could the Regional Officers be more involved?... These are just a few questions that could be asked. Believe it or not, as a Y.O.U.er, **you have a better view** on what the Region would benefit from than the regional team because you experience it in a different way.)
- From that list of improvements start a list of specific actions or projects that could be started to actually make those improvements. (i.e. a Unity book club)
- Choose a theme that you would like to have presented at a rally and just start writing the family material!

At Your Church

- Lead prayers and meditations.
- Lead a whole lesson.
- Organize a fund raiser or service project.
- Ask your sponsor or YFM Director to ask your minister if you can have the Y.O.U. do the service one day and lead or organize the talk.
- Plan 2-3 months of curriculum for your chapter to follow (and lead them through it).
- Plan a day rally, write family material for it and help facilitate it.
- Train others to lead within your chapter.

Within the Region

- Volunteer to be a family leader at a rally (helps you with understanding family material and leading small groups)
- Volunteer to be a Spirit Group leader at the Unitreat. This is another opportunity to lead a small group and get a feel for family material.
- Have your chapter plan a sub-regional event. Be sure to let the Regional Consultant know!
- Plan a service event and/or an overnight for the area chapters. Be sure to let the Regional Consultant know!
- Think of a way the whole region could do service and then contact the regional team.
- Contact the Regional team and see if there is any way that you can help out with anything. We will be overjoyed to hear from you and hear that you are even considering running for regional office. **WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU!**

I want to become a Regional Officer.
What Do I Do Right Now?
These are things that you should do right now!

Communicate

Tell your parent(s)/guardian(s), Sponsor(s), Youth and Family Ministry Director, Minister (support team), Regional Consultant and the Regional Officers. The more you communicate, the more everyone can support you (and the better abled you will be to serve this region if you are elected).

Look

Look at yourself. Be 100% honest because remember it is not about the ego (Edging God Out) it is about being able to serve the region best. Go back to the two pages defining Regional Officer Skills and on a separate sheet mark down your 2 weakest and your 2 strongest. Focus on putting yourself in situations which will help you improve your weakest (i.e. giving a speech for charisma) and share your strongest. Constantly re-access which one is your weakness throughout the year and improve those. Continually look for ways to empower and share your two strongest with others.

Choose

Look at the skill builders page and circle the ones that you want to accomplish (*note* the ones in the personal list could be done throughout the whole year). From here write them all on a piece of paper and then ask yourself what specific actions need to take place for this to happen? Detail the action that needs to be taken for each of the things that you want to accomplish and set a start and finish date. The more action you can take right now, the better.

State

By now you should have a good picture of how things will be coming together, and it is time to proclaim or declare to God what you are going to do and become. Co-create your personal Mission and Vision statements. Statements that are concise are easier to recite yourself.

Vision: Where you see yourself going.

Mission: The path taken to get there, the specific actions which will manifest your vision.

Organize

Start a binder. Purchase a half-inch binder and some dividers. Keep all of the paperwork that pertains to Regional Office in it and keep it organized. Start a section for your ongoing list of areas the Region could improve and how that could happen. Start a section for all of the notes you take on spiritual books and/or texts. Print out a copy of your Vision and Mission statements and put them in the front of the book. Make sure to keep this binder only for things involved with your path to Regional Office. Keep schoolwork and regular Y.O.U. chapter paperwork in other places. If you do plan a sub-regional (multi-chapter) event start another binder.

Act and Communicate

Do it! Do everything you plan and communicate constantly with your sponsor. Allow them to support you and help you stay on track. Give them a list of all the things you want to accomplish within the chapter, and the region (and if you feel comfortable doing so, everything you want to accomplish with yourself) complete with due dates. And let the Regional Consultant and Officers know where you are on your journey, as well. If you ever get confused just ask and you will be supported.

~ Remember at all times that you are infinitely powerful
and can attain all that you set for yourself achieve.