CAMPUS LEAD PACKET · SEASON I · 2026–27

Everything you need to bring the League to your campus.

The facts, your ten weeks, a pitch in three lengths, six email templates, announcements for every channel, the questions you will get, and every tutorial. Copy anything here and make it yours.

Watch the narrated walkthrough

The League in one page

What it is	America's first statewide collegiate entrepreneurship league. A season, not a pitch competition: student founders build in public from September to May and are scored on what they actually do.
Who runs it	The Founders League Institute. Kevin Mackey is the Founding League Commissioner. Ten founding universities each appoint a campus lead.
The prize	$575,000 in non-dilutive capital: $500,000 to the State Champion on May 19, 2027, and $25,000 to each of three Regional Champions in March. No equity, no warrants, no revenue share, ever.
Who can enter	Any undergraduate or graduate student enrolled full time at a founding university, or a graduate within the past 12 months if the venture was founded while enrolled. On a team, at least one founder must meet one of these. Student-founded and student-led, majority student ownership. Any venture type except life sciences for Season I.
How scoring works	Founders post a Weekly Update with real numbers and mark challenges as done on the matrix, the League's scoring grid of seven stages and six lanes. Every point lands in a lane, and the six lane totals add up to a Traction Score. When a venture has finished all six challenges in its row, a League official reviews the six proofs together, and when the review passes the venture moves up a stage. Who advances and who wins is decided by independent judges on six criteria, each a Conviction Ranking from 1 to 10. The six criteria are the six lanes of the matrix. The Selection Committee ranks the record; championship panels rank the pitch. Scouts are not part of the score.
Scouts	Anyone at a university can be a Scout: students, faculty, staff, alumni. Five portfolio slots, no money involved. Scouts score the points their picks earn. Scouts win recognition, not money, and do not decide who advances.
Cost to students	Nothing. Registration is free and the League never takes equity.

Your role, and the season

Between October 1 and January 15, get every strong student venture on your campus registered and reach out to every new one within a week. Season One League begins January 15 for the full field, and every venture that posts at least one update by February 26 goes to an independent Selection Committee, which names 12 per region within each university's allocation on February 28. The committee sees the record, not the pitch, so early registration and steady reporting are what you are really driving.

October	Sign in to MyCampus. Register the ventures you already know and chase founders to verify. Send the founder email to your list. Ask faculty and your entrepreneurship center to forward it.
November	Class announcements and the newsletter blurb go out. Reach out to every venture that appears as New within a week. Recruit Scouts from student orgs and alumni.
December	Review profiles. Set Watching or Not nominating with a reason. Push founders to keep posting updates, since the record they build now is what the committee sees in February.
Early January	Final push for registrations before Season One League begins on January 15. From that date, a Weekly Update every week is required for any venture pursuing the State Championship.
Jan 15 to Feb 26	League play. Six weeks of live scoring. Make sure every venture you believe in posts at least one update by February 26; nominate the ones your campus stands behind as a signal to the committee. On February 28 the Selection Committee reviews every venture with an update and names 12 per region, 36 in all.

The pitch, in three lengths

Ten seconds

Ohio's student founders now have a league. Register your venture, build in public all season, and compete for $575,000 with no equity taken.

Thirty seconds

The Ohio Founders League is America's first statewide collegiate entrepreneurship league, and [University] is one of the ten founding universities. It is a season, not a pitch night: you register once, post your real progress every week, move up seven stages, and the best ventures compete in March and May for $575,000 in non-dilutive capital. No equity, no fees. Registration takes ten minutes at ohiofoundersleague.org, and every registered venture enters league play on January 15, and one update by February 26 puts a venture in front of the Selection Committee.

Two minutes: the six points, in order

It rewards what you do, not one good afternoon. Weekly Updates, challenges done on the matrix, and stage reviews passed become a Traction Score that investors can trust.

Everyone starts fair. You are placed at a stage from what you have already built, and you are ranked against ventures that started where you did.

It is a statewide stage. Three Regional Championships, Selection Sunday, and a State Championship on May 19, 2027.

The money is real and clean: $500,000 to the State Champion, $25,000 to each Regional Champion, and the League never takes equity.

The whole campus can play. Students, faculty, staff, and alumni register as Scouts, pick five ventures, and score what those ventures earn. No money changes hands.

Your campus gets a record: every venture, every stage, every update, on one leaderboard with the other nine founding universities.

Email templates

Replace the bracketed parts. Send from your own university address; a message from you reaches people the League never will.

To: Student founders you know

Subject: Register your venture in the Ohio Founders League (10 minutes, no equity)

Hi [First name],

[University] is a founding university of the Ohio Founders League, America's first statewide collegiate entrepreneurship league, and I am our campus lead. I thought of [venture] right away.

Here is how it works. You register once, then post a Weekly Update with your real numbers. That becomes a Traction Score. Ventures move up seven stages, and a League official reviews each stage before a venture moves up. In March and May the best ventures compete for $575,000 in non-dilutive capital. No equity, no fees.

Every registered venture enters league play on January 15. Post at least one update by February 26 and an independent Selection Committee reviews your record for the Regional Championships. The committee looks at the record, not the pitch, so the earlier you register and the more updates you post, the stronger your case.

Register here, it takes about ten minutes: https://ohiofoundersleague.org/venture/register
The founder guide and a narrated walkthrough: https://ohiofoundersleague.org/learn/founders

Reply to this email and I will make sure you are on my list.

[Your name]
Campus Lead, [University]
Ohio Founders League

To: Faculty and staff, asking them to forward

Subject: Please forward to any student who is building something

Hi [First name],

[University] is one of ten founding universities of the Ohio Founders League, a statewide season in which student founders build in public from September to May and compete for $575,000 in non-dilutive capital. I am our campus lead.

I need help finding founders who are not already in the entrepreneurship program: the student with a side business, the lab team with a prototype, the club that is really a company. If you know one, please forward the paragraph below or send me their name.

For students: The Ohio Founders League is open to any [University] student with a venture, at any stage from idea to revenue. Register once, post a Weekly Update, move up the stages, and compete for $575,000 with no equity taken. Registration takes ten minutes at https://ohiofoundersleague.org/venture/register. League play opens January 15, and one update by February 26 puts a venture in front of the Selection Committee.

Thank you. A forwarded email from you reaches students I never will.

[Your name]
Campus Lead, [University]
Ohio Founders League

To: Student organizations

Subject: Your members can compete for $575,000, or back the founders who do

Hi [First name],

[University] is a founding university of the Ohio Founders League, and I am asking [Organization] to help in two ways.

First, any member with a venture can register for the season: ten minutes at https://ohiofoundersleague.org/venture/register, no equity, no fees, and a real shot at $575,000 in non-dilutive capital. League play opens January 15, and one update by February 26 puts a venture in front of the Selection Committee.

Second, every member can play as a Scout. Scouts pick five ventures for their portfolio and score the points those ventures earn. No money is involved. Scouts do not decide who advances, but a venture with people behind it is a stronger venture, and the Scout leaderboard ranks every Scout in Ohio. Register at https://ohiofoundersleague.org/scout/register.

Could I have five minutes at your next meeting? I will bring a one-page handout.

[Your name]
Campus Lead, [University]
Ohio Founders League

To: Alumni, to become Scouts

Subject: Back a [University] founder this season. Five picks, no money.

Hi [First name],

[University] is a founding university of the Ohio Founders League, America's first statewide collegiate entrepreneurship league. Our student founders are competing all season for $575,000 in non-dilutive capital, and alumni can help in a way that costs nothing.

Register as a Scout. You get five portfolio slots. Pick the [University] ventures you believe in, and every point they earn after you pick them is a point for you. There is no money involved at any stage. Scouts do not decide who advances, but a venture with people behind it is a stronger venture.

Scouts can also publish a profile: what you know, how you want to help. Founders search it, and a single intro from you can change a company. It takes two minutes at https://ohiofoundersleague.org/scout/register.

[Your name]
Campus Lead, [University]
Ohio Founders League

To: Your dean or president, a one-paragraph brief

Subject: Ohio Founders League: where [University] stands

[Name],

A short brief on the Ohio Founders League. [University] is one of ten founding universities of America's first statewide collegiate entrepreneurship league. Student founders register once, post a Weekly Update, and move up seven stages, each reviewed by a League official; the best compete at three Regional Championships in March and a State Championship on May 19, 2027, for $575,000 in non-dilutive capital. The League takes no equity. Registration runs through Practice to January 15, league play opens that day, and every venture with an update by February 26 goes to an independent Selection Committee, which names 12 per region within each university's allocation. I am the campus lead. As of today [University] has [N] ventures registered and [N] reporting, and we sit [Nth] of ten on campus points. I will send a one-line update every two weeks. The season site is https://ohiofoundersleague.org.

[Your name]

To: All founders, two weeks before league play begins

Subject: Two weeks to January 15

Hi [First name],

Two weeks left in Practice. Season One League begins on January 15, and from that date a Weekly Update every week is required for any venture pursuing the State Championship.

If you have registered: keep posting updates. The Selection Committee sees your record, and a venture with a steady record beats a venture with a good story.

If you have not: it takes ten minutes at https://ohiofoundersleague.org/venture/register, and I will review your profile the same week.

Questions, reply to this email.

[Your name]
Campus Lead, [University]
Ohio Founders League

Announcements for every channel

Newsletter or website blurb (80 words)

[University] is a founding university of the Ohio Founders League, America's first statewide collegiate entrepreneurship league. Student founders register once, post a Weekly Update, move up seven stages, and compete in March and May for $575,000 in non-dilutive capital. No equity, no fees. Any student with a venture can register in ten minutes at ohiofoundersleague.org, and anyone on campus can play as a Scout. League play opens to the full field on January 15. Contact [Your name], campus lead, at [email].

Class announcement, 30 seconds spoken

Quick one before we start. Ohio now has a founders league, and we are one of the ten founding universities. If you are building anything, a business, an app, a product, a service, you can register it in ten minutes at ohiofoundersleague.org and compete all year for five hundred and seventy five thousand dollars with no equity taken. If you are not building something, you can still play as a Scout: pick five ventures and score what they earn. League play opens January fifteenth, and a Weekly Update is required every week from then. Come find me after class or email [email].

Lecture slide text

OHIO FOUNDERS LEAGUE · SEASON I
[University] is a founding university.
Have a venture? Register in 10 minutes. No equity. $575,000 in prizes.
No venture? Be a Scout. Pick five, score what they earn. No money involved.
ohiofoundersleague.org · League play opens Jan 15 · [Your name], [email]

LinkedIn post, campus lead's voice

[University] is one of the ten founding universities of the Ohio Founders League, America's first statewide collegiate entrepreneurship league, and I am our campus lead.

Here is why I said yes. It is a season, not a pitch night. Student founders register once, post real numbers every week, and move up seven stages, each reviewed by a League official. In March and May the best ventures compete for $575,000 in non-dilutive capital. The League never takes equity.

If you are a [University] student with a venture, register at ohiofoundersleague.org. It takes ten minutes. If you are an alum who wants to back our founders, register as a Scout: five picks, no money involved.

League play opens January 15. Let's build. #OhioFoundersLeague

Instagram, X, or Slack, three short versions

1. Building something at [University]? Register it in 10 minutes and compete all season for $575,000. No equity, ever. ohiofoundersleague.org

2. [University] is a founding university of the Ohio Founders League. Founders: register now; league play opens Jan 15. Everyone else: be a Scout, pick five ventures, score what they earn. ohiofoundersleague.org

3. One season. Seven stages. $575,000. Zero equity. The Ohio Founders League is live and [University] is in. ohiofoundersleague.org

Flyer or poster text

STAY. BUILD. WIN.
Ohio Founders League · Season I · 2026–27
[University] is a founding university.

FOUNDERS
Register your venture in 10 minutes. Post a Weekly Update. Move up seven stages. Compete for $575,000 in non-dilutive capital. No equity taken, ever.

SCOUTS
Pick five ventures. Score what they earn. No money involved.

ohiofoundersleague.org
League play opens January 15, 2027.
Campus lead: [Your name] · [email]

The questions you will get

Does the League take equity?

No. Prizes are non-dilutive grants. No equity, warrants, revenue share, or any other interest, ever.

What does it cost a student?

Nothing. Registration is free.

Who is eligible?

Any undergraduate or graduate student enrolled full time at a founding university, or a graduate within the past 12 months if the venture was founded while enrolled. On a team, at least one founder must meet one of these. Teams must be student-founded and student-led with majority student ownership. Life sciences ventures are not eligible in Season I.

My venture is just an idea. Should I still register?

Yes. The matrix runs from Stage 1 (Idea) to Stage 7 (Liquidity). Founders do not pick their stage. The League places each venture at the stage that what exists today supports, and compares it with ventures that started at the same stage. An idea competes against ideas.

How much time does it take?

Registration is about ten minutes. The Weekly Update takes about five minutes, once a week, due Sunday at midnight. Finishing challenges on the matrix is the work of building the company, done at your own pace.

What is a Traction Score?

The sum of a venture's six lane totals. Points come from challenges done on the matrix, Weekly Updates, and money milestones, and every point lands in a lane. It only goes up, except when a League official strikes a proof that cannot be supported at a stage review.

What is a stage review?

The check at the end of each stage. When a venture has finished all six challenges in its row, a League official reviews the six proofs together. When it passes, a stage bonus pays and the venture moves up a stage. A proof that cannot be supported is struck and its points come off.

How is the Regional Championship field decided?

Every registered venture plays from January 15. Post at least one update by February 26 and you are in the pool. On February 28 an independent Selection Committee, financially and operationally independent of the League's day-to-day operations, reviews every venture in the pool: stage, challenges done, Weekly Updates, stage reviews passed, revenue. Each member ranks each venture on six criteria, a Conviction Ranking from 1 to 10 on each, and the committee names 12 per region by university allocation, 36 in all. A campus nomination is a signal to the committee, not a requirement. The same committee names the final ten on March 14.

What does a Regional Championship venture get?

A dedicated League mentor and a place at a Regional Championship in March, 12 per region. Nothing about the day is a surprise: each selected venture receives its pitch slot, the full judging rubric, and the pool of questions judges draw from at random, and the League runs preparation sessions before the Regionals. The ten finalists compete for the State Championship on May 19 with the same preparation.

What is a Scout and is there money involved?

A Scout backs ventures they believe in with five portfolio slots. Their points are the Traction Score points their picks earn after the pick. No money is deposited, paid out, or exchanged at any point.

Can faculty and staff participate?

As Scouts, yes. Faculty and staff can also serve as mentors and advisors to ventures. They cannot register a venture unless they are also a student.

Who sees a venture's data?

Founders see their own portal. Campus leads see their university's ventures. Scouts see every listed venture's public profile and score. League officials review proofs at stage reviews. The leaderboard is one set of numbers for everyone.

Tutorials and tools

Print Library

One-pagers for everyone, founders, and Scouts, an 11 × 17 flyer, and the overview deck for leadership. Each with the Season I timeline and QR codes.

ohiofoundersleague.org/learn/library

Campus Lead Guide

The MyCampus playbook: what you do, how it works, and why. Read online, print the PDF, or watch the narrated walkthrough.

ohiofoundersleague.org/learn/campus-leads
PDF · Video

Founder Guide

Give this to founders. Registration, the Traction Score, the matrix, the Weekly Update, and stage reviews.

ohiofoundersleague.org/learn/founders
PDF · Video

Scout Guide

Give this to students, staff, and alumni who want to play. Five slots, no money, and how founders find them.

ohiofoundersleague.org/learn/scouts
PDF · Video

Links to hand out

Season site	https://ohiofoundersleague.org
Founder registration	https://ohiofoundersleague.org/venture/register
Scout registration	https://ohiofoundersleague.org/scout/register
MyCampus sign-in	https://ohiofoundersleague.org/campus/login
All guides	https://ohiofoundersleague.org/learn
League Office	hello@ohiofoundersleague.org

Key dates, Season I

Sept 29, 2026	Public announcement. Registration opens for founders and Scouts.
Oct 1, 2026 to Jan 15, 2027	Practice: campuses activate and ventures register. No cutoff, no selection.
Jan 15, 2027	Season One League begins. League play opens to the full field. Live scoring and Weekly Updates are required from this date for any venture pursuing the State Championship.
Jan 15 to Feb 26, 2027	League play. Six weeks of live scoring and Weekly Updates.
Feb 26, 2027	League play eligibility closes. Every venture with at least one update since January 15 goes to the Selection Committee.
Feb 28, 2027	Selection Committee meets. The 36 Regional Championship ventures named, 12 per region by university allocation.
Mar 9 to 11, 2027	Regional Championships: Tuesday Cincinnati, Wednesday Columbus, Thursday Cleveland. 12 ventures present at each. $25,000 to each Regional Champion.
Mar 14, 2027	Selection Sunday. The Selection Committee names the final ten: the three Regional Champions and seven more.
May 5, 2027	Last weekly update for the final ten. Scores frozen.
May 19, 2027	State Championship. The ten finalists compete. One State Champion, $500,000.

Questions any time: Kevin Mackey, Founding League Commissioner, hello@ohiofoundersleague.org.