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 do.
Who runs it	The Founders League Institute. Kevin Mackey is the Founding League Commissioner. Each of the ten founding universities appoints 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, ever.
Who can enter	Any 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. Any venture type except life sciences in Season I.
How scoring works	Founders post a Weekly Update 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. A League official reviews each stage before a venture moves up. Who advances and who wins is decided by independent judges on six criteria, each a Conviction Ranking from 1 to 10. Scouts are not part of the score.
Scouts	Students, faculty, staff, and alumni can all be Scouts: five picks, no money involved. Scouts score the points their picks earn.
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 know. Send the founder email and ask faculty to forward it.
November	Class announcements and the newsletter blurb. Reach out to every new venture within a week. Recruit Scouts.
December	Review profiles. Push founders to keep posting updates; the record they build now carries into league play.
Early January	Last push for registrations. Season One League begins January 15, and a Weekly Update is required every week from then.
Jan 15 to Feb 26	League play. Watch the leaderboard and make sure every venture you believe in posts at least one update by February 26. On February 28 the Selection Committee reviews every venture with an update and names 12 per region.

The pitch, in three lengths

Ten seconds

Ohio's student founders now have a league. Register your venture, build 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 ten founding universities. It is a season, not a pitch night: 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.

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.

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

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, no equity taken.

The whole campus can play. Students, faculty, staff, and alumni register as Scouts, pick five ventures, and score what those ventures earn.

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 [venture] in the Ohio Founders League

Hi [First name],

[University] is a founding university of the Ohio Founders League, and I thought of [venture] right away.

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. 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 reads the record, so the earlier you start the stronger your case.

Register (about ten minutes): https://ohiofoundersleague.org/venture/register
Founder guide: https://ohiofoundersleague.org/learn/founders

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

[Your name]
Campus Lead, [University]

To: Faculty and staff, asking them to forward

Subject: Please forward to any student who is building something

Hi [First name],

[University] is a founding university of the Ohio Founders League, a statewide season in which student founders compete for $575,000 in non-dilutive capital. I am our campus lead.

I am looking for founders outside the entrepreneurship program: the student with a side business, the lab team with a prototype. If you know one, please forward this or send me their name.

For students: any [University] student with a venture, at any stage, can register in ten minutes at https://ohiofoundersleague.org/venture/register. No equity taken. League play opens January 15, and one update by February 26 puts a venture in front of the Selection Committee.

Thank you.

[Your name]
Campus Lead, [University]

To: Student organizations

Subject: 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] for two things.

Members with a venture can register in ten minutes at https://ohiofoundersleague.org/venture/register. No equity, no fees, and a real shot at $575,000.

Everyone else can play as a Scout: pick five ventures, score what they earn, no money involved. Register at https://ohiofoundersleague.org/scout/register.

Could I have five minutes at your next meeting?

[Your name]
Campus Lead, [University]

To: Alumni, to become Scouts

Subject: Back a [University] founder this season

Hi [First name],

[University] student founders are competing all season in the Ohio Founders League for $575,000 in non-dilutive capital. Alumni can help in a way that costs nothing.

Register as a Scout. Pick five [University] ventures, and every point they earn after you pick them is a point for you. No money involved. Founders can also find you for an intro, and one intro can change a company.

Two minutes: https://ohiofoundersleague.org/scout/register

[Your name]
Campus Lead, [University]

To: Your dean or president

Subject: Ohio Founders League: where [University] stands

[Name],

[University] is one of ten founding universities of the Ohio Founders League, America's first statewide collegiate entrepreneurship league. Student founders register, post a Weekly Update, and move up seven stages, each reviewed by a League official; the best compete in March and on May 19, 2027 for $575,000 in non-dilutive capital. No equity taken. League play opens to the full field on January 15, 2027, 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. As of today we have [N] ventures registered and [N] reporting, [Nth] of ten on campus points. I will send a short update every two weeks. https://ohiofoundersleague.org

[Your name]

To: All founders, two weeks before league play begins

Subject: Two weeks to January 15

Hi [First name],

Season One League begins January 15. From that date, a Weekly Update every week is required for any venture pursuing the State Championship.

Registered: keep posting updates. The committee reads the record.
Not yet: ten minutes at https://ohiofoundersleague.org/venture/register, and I will review your profile the same week.

[Your name]
Campus Lead, [University]

Announcements for every channel

Newsletter or website blurb (60 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 for $575,000 in non-dilutive capital. No equity, no fees. Register in ten minutes at ohiofoundersleague.org, or play as a Scout. League play opens January 15. Contact [Your name] at [email].

Class announcement, 20 seconds spoken

Quick one. Ohio now has a founders league, and we are a founding university. If you are building anything, register it in ten minutes at ohiofoundersleague.org and compete all year for five hundred and seventy five thousand dollars, no equity taken. Not building? Be a Scout: pick five ventures and score what they earn. League play opens January fifteenth. Email me at [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.
ohiofoundersleague.org · League play opens Jan 15 · [Your name], [email]

LinkedIn post, campus lead's voice

[University] is one of ten founding universities of the Ohio Founders League, and I am our campus lead.

It is a season, not a pitch night. Student founders register once, post real progress every week, and move up seven stages, each reviewed by a League official. In March and May the best compete for $575,000 in non-dilutive capital. No equity, ever.

Students with a venture: register at ohiofoundersleague.org, ten minutes. Alumni: register as a Scout, pick five, no money involved.

League play opens January 15. #OhioFoundersLeague

Instagram, X, or Slack, three short versions

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

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

3. One season. Seven stages. $575,000. Zero equity. [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 in 10 minutes. Move up seven stages. Compete for $575,000. No equity, 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, or revenue share, ever.

What does it cost a student?

Nothing.

Who is eligible?

Any 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. No life sciences 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.

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.

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.

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 ranks every venture in the pool on six criteria, each from 1 to 10, and names 12 per region by university allocation, 36 in all. A campus nomination is a signal to the committee, not a requirement.

What does a Regional Championship venture get?

A League mentor and a place at a Regional Championship in March, 12 per region. Each selected venture gets its pitch slot, the judging rubric, and the judges' question pool in advance, plus preparation sessions. Ten finalists compete for the State Championship on May 19.

What is a Scout?

Anyone on campus who backs ventures with five picks and scores the points those picks earn. No money is involved at any point.

Can faculty and staff participate?

As Scouts, mentors, and advisors, yes. They cannot register a venture unless they are also a student.

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.