Do you feel that you have a unique service cause you want to pursue? Do you and a couple of friends want to create an RSO but don’t know how? This guide will help teach you how to create a Service RSO on campus and how to be successful.

GETTING STARTED STEPS

1. Choose a cause - You want to make sure you choose a cause that you’re passionate about. Make sure that the cause is also relevant so that you’ll be able to reach out to other students interested. Make your mission clear so that there is no confusion what you stand for.

2. Gather necessary members - You need at least 5 people to have your own RSO on campus.

3. Register online - There are necessary steps to register your own RSO that are available at this link under “register and re-register an organization”:
   http://union.illinois.edu/get-involved/office-of-registered-organizations/register-and-re-register

4. Volunteer Opportunities - If you want your RSO to be service related you need to have volunteer opportunities in mind where you and your RSO will go volunteer. A great resource to look up organizations in need of volunteers is www.cuvolunteer.org or you can visit the Office of Volunteer Programs.

5. Planning - Go over the details of running an RSO; create dates, times, and location to have meetings, set dates to volunteer with your organization of choice, etc.

6. Publicize - There are many ways to publicize your new RSO, one great opportunity is Quad Day. Another is having food at your first meeting such as an ice cream social. Get creative with getting the word out about your new RSO!
What else should be thought about?

What if I can’t find a local organization to volunteer at?

Start looking into national and state-wide organizations that would be willing to create a partnership with your RSO and UIUC. You could create trips to visit their center or could possibly even get speakers to come from these organizations. You could even work with cities nearby Champaign-Urbana. However, it’s best to set up an appointment with OVP to review local organizations before pursuing state and national wide organizations.

Where do I find people to join?

A great place to start are certified and private-certified university housing communities. You can get in contact with RA’s and have them relay your message to their residents. Another option is to flier at high populated areas; dining centers, the Quad, and cultural houses. It is also beneficial to give quick speeches to related classes. It is helpful to contact related RSO’s and ask them to relay your information to their members.

What do I do if the RSO isn’t successful?

Keep your head high and understand that it takes a lot of time and effort to make an RSO successful. It is okay if not everything goes as planned. Collaborate with your team or even other RSO’s to get your name out there. It’s all about publicizing your events. If you can publicize well, students will be there.

Who can I contact for assistance?

To assist with your service RSO:
Illini Union Office of Volunteer Programs
ovp@illinois.edu
Illini Union Office of Registered Organizations
iurso@illinois.edu

288 Illini Union (Quad Side), 1401 W. Green St., Urbana, IL 61801
union.illinois.edu/ovp · 217.333.7424 · ovp@illinois.edu