HOW TO START A GIRL RISING CLUB

I. Introduction

The Girl Rising Club Starter Kit is designed to provide a platform for you, a student who wants to lead your community by implementing change on a local and global scale by supporting Girl Rising and its mission. With this platform, you will have the tools on hand to start a club in your school. The following materials are NOT instructions; rather, they form a guide to help create and maintain original, innovative Girl Rising Clubs, meant to be tailored and modeled for your school community.

II. The Whats and the Whys

What is Girl Rising?

Girl Rising is a global campaign for girls' education and empowerment that uses the power of storytelling, through film and other media, to change the way people think about and value girls and their education. We work with on-the-ground partners to change attitudes and behaviors and to spark community-led initiatives.

Why girls' education?

Girl Rising was founded when The Documentary Group—a group of journalists from around the world—researched the most effective way to reduce global poverty. The
overwhelming answer was educating girls. Educated mothers are more than twice as likely to send their children to school; a child born to a literate mother is 50% more likely to survive past the age of 5; and girls with 8 years of education are 4 times less likely to be married as children. All of these factors add up to improved economies and better qualities of life all around the world. However, in 2017, there were 130 million girls not in school. This is a statistic that we hope to change to ensure a brighter tomorrow. This club is not only about girls, but about helping the world as a whole.

What is a Girl Rising Club?

A Girl Rising Club is a group of motivated students who are willing to become leaders, incite change by building awareness, and help promote girls’ education by supporting Girl Rising. These students can participate in activities such as fundraisers, goal-oriented discussions, and community outreach (see page 5). The members of the club will be empowered to speak up for gender equality and on behalf of those who do not have the opportunity or ability to speak up for themselves.

Why Girl Rising Clubs?

High-school students in the U.S. like you can make a difference. Girl Rising seeks student involvement, specifically from high-schoolers who want to do work with other like-minded students. These clubs have the potential to build awareness in many communities, and to create change both locally and globally. Girl Rising is about more than education; it is
about changing the way in which girls are treated in society. As a club member and leader in any community, students can influence others to take realistic action that addresses the issues that Girl Rising is focused on.

**What can a Girl Rising Club accomplish?**

Anything! These clubs are creative fields in which their leaders and members can accomplish anything and everything!

**III. Get Educated**

Before you start your club, it is important to be knowledgeable about Girl Rising and the issues that we address around the world.

If you want to learn more, you’re in luck! Below are links to information that will help you learn more about how Girl Rising accomplishes our goals world wide, including their major impact in India, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and, most recently, Saudi Arabia, as well as many more developing countries.

(https://www.girlrising.org/watch-the-movie/)

The image to the right, a still from the *Girl Rising* film, was taken in Nepal for Suma’s story. Suma entered into bonded labor at the age of six. To learn more about Suma, click here.
IV. First Steps

Starting a club is exciting, but it also requires leadership and initiative. Below is a step-by-step guide on how to begin. Of course, these are just guidelines, so feel free to be creative.

- Watch stories from the *Girl Rising* film on YouTube and browse the website to further your knowledge about the cause (*Suma's story*, *Senna's story*, and *Girl Rising website*). It is imperative that you are knowledgeable and confident when introducing Girl Rising.
- Speak to an advisor or teacher. Make sure to get the necessary approval in order to begin a Girl Rising Club in your school.
  - If a proposal is necessary, complete this [survey](#) and a sample proposal will be emailed to you shortly.
- Follow the club protocol in your school (find a teacher to sponsor your club, a room to host your club, a date and time for meetings, etc.).
- Find others who want to get involved (through publicity, talking with other students, making posters, asking teachers, etc.) and organize an interest meeting to promote the club and provide more information about Girl Rising.
- Form a lesson plan for an interest meeting.

Interest Meeting Lesson Plan

This is your opportunity to get people interested, excited, and involved, so your enthusiasm is essential.

- Prepare for your meeting by writing down your talking points and practicing before the meeting.
Show at least one clip from the movie (click here for Nepal chapter).

Discuss the importance of girls’ education and why students should get involved.

- Refer to the Girl Rising website for the organization’s mission statement.
- Select compelling facts from the Girl Rising impact sheet.
- Share out facts from the Girl Rising fact sheet.

With the group, consider possible goals for the club (ways to raise money, spread awareness, connect with organization members and sponsors, etc.).

Figure out meeting day(s).

Possible Club Activities

The activities should be fun and inclusive. Talk to your club members and decide together which activities make most sense for your club.

How to:

Step 1: Get your event approved from the school official who is responsible for coordinating events.

Step 2: Even though Girl Rising has a general fund for donations, there are other projects/schools that you can partner with to donate to—research local programs that address education-related issues. For example, you can use funds to purchase school supplies to send to a designated school.

Step 3: Be proactive in publicizing the purpose of your fundraiser. You might have to speak directly with other students to gain support.
Step 4: Advertise your fundraiser and the cause. Make posters and hang them around popular places in your school. Before and during the event, you may find it helpful to emphasize the importance of your cause and the tangible results of donating to the event with students in your school.

Fundraiser Ideas:

- Organize a bake sale (homemade goods earn more money).
- Start a coin drive.
- Host a walkathon.
- Set up a film screening.
  ➔ first, decide which parts of the Girl Rising film will have the greatest positive impact on your audience
  ➔ download the movie OR obtain the part you want to show from youtube
    OR reach out to a Girl Rising representative for the vimeo code
  ➔ gather all materials needed to have a screening (this may vary based on location)
  ➔ advertise your screening!
    ◆ make sure you have an excited audience!
  ➔ this is a great opportunity to raise money, see “fundraiser ideas”
- Raffle off gift cards.
- Get together with local organizations and design collaborative projects.
- During the club, have discussions! Come up with questions surrounding girls’ education and discuss opinions and problems.
- Art projects: come up with creative ways to represent Girl Rising and display them around your school. This could include posters that advertise information sessions and display facts about the club and girls’ education.
Other Activities:

- Collaborate with a local organization and offer your time to be directly involved in their work. Go to their worksites and do community service.
  - Read to children.
  - Tutor in after-school programs.
  - Design your own lesson.
- Host open, goal-oriented discussions that appeal to a wide range of students.
  Refer to the Girl Rising website for more information.
  - It is your power to affect change.
  - How to end world poverty.
  - Educating girls will change the world.

Planning an event is a rewarding challenge. Your school official might want more information about Girl Rising and the purpose of the fundraiser. You can direct them to the Girl Rising website and parts I and II of the Starter Kit.

Conclusion

So, why Girl Rising? When you have so much on your plate already, starting a club may seem like the last thing on your agenda. However, we have to remember that our access to education comes with a responsibility to grant others the same opportunity. Girl Rising is not just a club--it is a global movement, and your involvement could help change the lives of millions of young girls around the world. By founding a Girl Rising Club at your school, not only will you be empowering others by being an inspiration and symbol of change, you will empower yourself.
For More Information

Contact Lucas Tedone at mhsgn.ygc@gmail.com for any questions concerning Girl Rising or Girl Rising Clubs.