

Starting a CareKit Community Chapter

What is a CareKit Community Chapter?

A CareKit Community chapter is a branch of our nonprofit made up of students and community members committed to making a difference by providing basic hygiene and first aid kits—called CareKits—to underserved populations. Every chapter plays a vital role in promoting health equity and compassion.

Your chapter can exist as a school club, community group, or even a group of friends. What matters most is your commitment to service and your drive to lead with compassion.

Starting a chapter is a meaningful, ongoing commitment. Each chapter is expected to organize monthly initiatives, whether that's a CareKit packing event, fundraiser, or community outreach activity. The goal is to build strong, local relationships, raise awareness about hygiene poverty, and provide tangible support to those in need.

Benefits of Starting a CareKit Community Chapter

1. Make a real impact by helping underserved communities receive essential hygiene and first aid supplies
2. Take on a leadership role and gain experience managing a team and organizing events
3. Build valuable skills in leadership, organization, fundraising, and communication
4. Connect with others who share your passion for service and work alongside a diverse group of volunteers
5. Earn volunteer hours through meaningful, hands-on service projects

Chapter Application Process

Step One

1. Complete the Chapter Interest Form.
2. Once submitted, our team will review your application.
3. If selected, you will receive a follow-up email to schedule a brief chapter interview where we'll discuss your goals, plans, and vision for your chapter.

For school-based chapters: Please make sure to introduce the idea to your school leadership or club advisor and receive verbal approval.

For Regional or State Chapters: You'll need to have an adult advisor over the age of 18. This can be a parent, guardian, or trusted adult who will support your chapter, help with communication, and oversee activities as needed.

Step Two

1. Assemble your Leadership Team and assign key officer roles. Your team can be as big as 2 people.
2. Stay organized with your documents, including any forms or budget requests required by your school or group.
3. Set clear goals for what your chapter wants to accomplish in its first year.
4. Brainstorm events and fundraiser ideas that fit your community's needs and interests.
5. Start recruiting members and reaching out to local partners who can support your mission.

Chapter Structure

Once approved, you'll need to create a leadership team to help run your chapter smoothly. You can customize your structure, but here are a few key roles we recommend:

- **President:** Leads the chapter, oversees projects and communication, and provides monthly updates to the CareKit Community team.
- **Treasurer:** Manages the budget, handles reimbursements and donations, and keeps organized records of all transactions.
- **Event Coordinator:** Organizes CareKit packing events and outreach activities, helps lead meetings, and coordinates logistics.
- **Social Media Manager:** Manages the chapter's online presence, posts updates, and spreads awareness. Put your school or organization name after CareKitCommunity for Instagram. Example: A chapter at Warren High School Instagram Account would be: @CareKitCommunityWarrenHS
- **Secretary (optional):** Keeps notes, tracks volunteer hours, and assists with communication and documentation.

Your team should reflect your chapter's size and needs—just make sure roles are clearly defined from the start. Chapters can run with as little as 2 people on the Leadership Team as long as all the responsibilities are met.

Monthly Requirements

To stay active, each chapter should strive to host at least one event or make progress on a meaningful project every month. These can include:

- CareKit packing events
- Fundraisers (car washes, bake sales, etc.)
- Donation drives
- School or community awareness campaigns
- Partnerships with local shelters, clinics, or nonprofits
- Speaker presentations or educational workshops

A typical CareKit includes:

- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Soap/Body Wash
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Band-aids
- Feminine hygiene products (if needed)

Remember, if you gather items and are missing some from the list, please don't let that stop you from supporting an underserved population. It's more important to deliver what you have rather than waiting to assemble a "complete" CareKit. Every donation, no matter how small, can make a significant impact in someone's life.

Every chapter plays a vital role in promoting health equity and compassion, whether through assembling full kits or distributing individual hygiene items to those in need.

CareKit Community Website

We will highlight your chapter by featuring your achievements on our website (currently in development) and sharing your posts and stories on our Instagram account. We will also post your deliveries on our "Making an Impact" page on our website. This helps amplify your impact and reach a wider audience, furthering your mission and inspiring others to join the CareKit Community movement.

To highlight your chapter on our website, we will also feature:

- Chapter Name: Your chapter's official name will be displayed.
- Chapter Photo: A photo representing your chapter leadership team will be showcased.

By sharing these details, we aim to celebrate your chapter's impact and inspire others to join the CareKit Community movement.

Instagram Page

To promote your chapter and build a community, we recommend creating an Instagram page. This allows you to share your journey through photos and videos of events, kit assemblies, and deliveries.

Support and Contact

As you embark on this journey with CareKit Community, remember that we are here to support you every step of the way. If you have any questions, need guidance, or just want to share your progress, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We're committed to helping you succeed and make a meaningful impact in your community. Feel free to contact us anytime at carekitcommunity@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you and celebrating your achievements!