

So I'm president – What the H#((am I supposed to do next?

How to lead a student organization in just 9 easy steps!

Help provide a vision and a plan.	You need to have a clear vision for what you want the group to accomplish this year – that's step one. Think of what you want the club to be – and think big – think best case scenario – think beyond what's actually possible. Now that you've got that awesome vision, the bad news: it doesn't do you an iota of good unless you have a plan to get there. Groups that look ahead only to the next event never get past the "putting out fires" stage. Look at the year as a whole, pinpoint key dates and events, and get the ball rolling.
Know about policies and services.	If you're not aware of the rules you need to follow as a UI organization, there's a good chance your organization won't follow them. Likewise, if you don't know of all the benefits available to you as a UI organization, your club will most likely miss out on them. Be a source of information for your club; it'll improve organizational efficiency AND gain you respect.
Lead meetings.	It's your responsibility to preside at meetings – definitely with your executive board/officers, possible with the entire club from time to time. Poorly planned meetings are deadly – everyone dreads going to them, and little gets accomplished. Remember, there are some handy tips for planning a meeting at http://stuorgs.uidaho.edu/Guides-EffectiveMeetings .
You don't have to do it all!	Delegate, delegate, delegate! It's your job as president to pull others in and get them involved in the organization. Help them find ways to use their talents and interests to benefit your club! Don't try and do everything yourself – you'll just get burnt out!
Hold others accountable.	Once you've given those people a job to do, make sure they get it done. It's not always fun, but successful organizations maintain high levels of accountability. Live by the DWYSYWD rule – Do What You Say You Will Do – and help others in your club do the same.
Manage conflict within the organization.	This is probably the hardest thing to do well in any organization, anywhere. Inevitably, people won't get along all the time, and it's part of your job as president to help them work it out. Just remember: avoiding conflict seldom solves the problem; most problems have more than one solution, and your ego has no place in resolving conflicts. Look for more advice at http://stuorgs.uidaho.edu/Guides-ConflictManagement .
Don't go on a power trip.	Just because you're the president doesn't mean you get to tell people what to do. As a leader, you're there to serve your members and the community – NOT the other way around. Most student organizations work because people want to be involved. If you alienate them by making it all about you and what you want, you're writing a recipe for failure.
Keep learning and enjoy yourself.	Look to understand yourself better – you'll be a better leader as a result; utilize the great resource that is your advisor (if your advisor's not so hot, consider finding a new one!), and most importantly, learn from your fellow officers and the rest of your organization. Be open and flexible, listen to people's suggestions, and success will soon follow. At the same time, make sure you're having fun – losing sight of that does no one any good, especially you!
Think about your legacy.	How do you want to be remembered? What will the organization look like after you're gone? Your answers are probably related closely to your vision – at least they should be! Keep materials organized to make transitions easier. Identify potential future officers and invest time in mentoring and encouraging them. Refer back to your vision often.