

STARTING AN ATHLETES IV MINISTRY: Recruiting/Forming a Missional Core Team

The primary purpose of all Athletes IV student ministries or chapters is “mission”— i.e. to reach “every team, every teammate.” Therefore, Athletes IV seeks to find and invite Christian student athletes into partnership with us (and with other Christian athletes at their school as a “team”) in this mission, and then equip and empower them to engage in intentional personal witness to their teammates and to do outreach-focused ministry on their teams. Student-led, team-based, outreach-focused ministries are essential components of all Athletes IV student ministries.

Another essential component of all Athletes IV student ministries is the spiritual development and growth of those who are partnered with us. Therefore, we seek 1) to give these “team” members not only what they need to do outreach well to their teammates, but also 2) to give them what they need as student athletes to live and grow as disciples of Christ in the environments they currently live in and 3) to give them what they need to be equipped/developed as whole-life disciples and world changers for Jesus for the rest of their lives. This primarily happens through what we do in inter-team, weekly “Core Team” Meetings.

The purpose of this paper is to help you get started in recruiting and forming a missional “Core Team.”

1. Find other Christian student athletes who might be interested in starting an Athletes IV ministry. Here are some ideas about where to begin:
 - a. Network through:
 - Personal friendships/contacts
 - Coaches who you know
 - Students involved in the regular IV chapter (if there is one)
 - Local pastors who might have athletes, coaches, etc. in their church
 - b. Set up an interest table outside, near the field house, or a place where athletes hang out
 - c. Email or talk with coaches, share with them about Athletes IV, and ask them:
 - If you can make an announcement to their team about Athletes IV
 - If there are athletes on their team who might be interested in a Christian ministry
2. Cast vision for a “mission team” committed to reaching “every team, every teammate.”
3. Ask interested Christian student athletes to commit to joining you in forming a “Core Team” and starting an Athletes IV ministry.
4. Begin to meet together for a weekly inter-team “Core Team” Meeting.
 - a) Gather your “Core Team” and other potentially interested student athletes and go through the Revised 8-Week Core Meeting Starter Series*
 - b) Begin to grow together in vision and excitement of being a “mission team” committed to reaching “every team, every teammate.”
 - c) Begin to support one another in personal witness and outreach to your respective teams.

**NOTE: The Revised 8-Week Core Meeting Starter Series Resource and other Core Meeting resources are available through Athletes IV. If you are interested, please contact us and we'll not only supply these resources but give coaching in how to make the most of them as well.*

For more info or resources contact Denny Brogan, Athletes IV Associate National Director, at denny.brogan@intervarsity.org