



# STUDENTS REACHING STUDENTS

## FIRST PRIORITY OF TAMPA BAY

Serving middle and high school students in Hillsborough,

Pinellas, Pasco and Polk Counties

[www.firstprioritytampa.org](http://www.firstprioritytampa.org)

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2020-2021 Group Packet

# WITH THE GOSPEL



## CONTACT INFO:

Amber Johansen  
Executive Director  
amberjohansen9@gmail.com  
813.390.5964

For more information or to  
schedule training:  
infofirstpriority@gmail.com

For a staff directory, please visit  
our website:  
[www.firstprioritytampa.org](http://www.firstprioritytampa.org)

Mailing address:  
P.O. Box 10731  
Tampa, FL 33679

Office address:  
97 W. Biscayne Ave.  
Tampa, FL 33606

Vision: The HOPE of Christ in every student.

Mission: To partner with local churches to train and resource middle and high school students to share Christ at their schools.

\*First Priority is a registered 501(c) 3 nonprofit serving Hillsborough, Pinellas, Polk and Pasco Counties. We partner with churches that are committed to reaching this generation for Christ. For information on our statement of faith, please visit our website: [www.firstprioritytampa.org](http://www.firstprioritytampa.org).

## UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF FIRST PRIORITY OF TAMPA BAY, A REGISTERED NONPROFIT:



First Priority provides meeting resources, training and support to students who want to lead First Priority Christian campus groups. If students make the decision to form a First Priority group, they agree to:

- Use the approved FP logo, H.O.P.E. strategy and meeting resources
- Contact us for training and support
- Abide by our statement of faith and guidelines for leadership

## UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FIRST PRIORITY GROUP AND A CLUB:

- If the students are meeting informally during non-academic time (before/after school or during lunch) then the meeting is considered a "group". Note: Informally means that leaders are not elected through a formal process, dues are not collected and students are not meeting during school-sanctioned time. In this scenario, students are protected under the First Amendment. The teacher providing the meeting space is considered the "teacher host".
- If students are meeting during school-sanctioned time (club day and/or during instructional time) then it is considered a "club". In this scenario, students are protected under the First Amendment and the Equal Access Act. The teacher representing the club is considered the "teacher sponsor".

## CHECKLIST FOR RE-LAUNCHING A FIRST PRIORITY "GROUP":

- Confirm faculty member is available and willing to host the group
- Confirm meeting day, time & location (for each lunch period, if applicable)
- If needed, provide the administration with Letter of Intent
- Set a date for the first meeting (with approval of teacher host)
- Communicate launch date to all students
- Meet with student leaders to plan the first H.O.P.E. cycle
- Be sure leaders have phone app or access to H.O.P.E resources
- Print first cycle from website for students (under "Students" tab)
- Request help from First Priority as needed (guest speakers too)

### Checklist for first HELP WEEK:

- Meeting room is confirmed and meeting has been advertised to students; resources are printed
- A student opens and closes in prayer; a student leads the lesson; a student reports attendance
- Students are invited back; student leaders are prepared for OVERCOME WEEK

### The First Priority Phone App:

All club resources can be found on the First Priority phone app. To download the free app, search for First Priority of Tampa Bay on the App Store and Google Play.

### Additional Resources:

Most club resources can be found on the First Priority of Tampa Bay website under the "Students" tab, including the H.O.P.E. cycle lessons and response cards for Engage Week.



## MAKING THE DECISION TO MEET ON CLUB DAY (FOR HILLSBOROUGH ONLY) :

First Priority groups meet weekly, either during lunch or before/after school. If the students also choose to meet on the official club day (if available at the school), please contact us and we will help through the process.

## POSSIBLE SCHEDULE FOR CLUB MEETINGS:

For the H.O.P.E. cycle, consider meeting each week during the usual meeting time for Help, Overcome and Prepare weeks with Engage week falling on the official club day. This will allow the club to host Engage week activities on the official club day (rather than during a regular meeting).

## CLUB CARDS:

Many schools require students to carry and/or show a club card. Please email [infopriority@gmail.com](mailto:infopriority@gmail.com) to obtain the First Priority logo for club cards and/or posters.

## ADVERTISING THE CLUB:

The Equal Access Act affords all clubs the same rights and access. If one club is able to make morning/afternoon announcements, hang posters and/or pass out flyers, then all clubs have the same rights.

## REPORTING CLUB INFORMATION TO FIRST PRIORITY:

In order to effectively resource and train students, First Priority requests that each group assign a student to report weekly attendance and decisions for Christ through the phone app. Students must also sign up for leadership, attend training or request in-club training. These tasks can be accomplished through the First Priority phone app.

\*During club launch, please have ALL student leaders complete the leadership application on the phone app.





## STUDENT LEADERSHIP:

Being a First Priority leader is a blessing and a calling. It should not be another club for a college application. Rather, student leaders should be faithful, responsible servants of Christ who are focused on helping others build a relationship with Christ.

First Priority does not recommend electing leaders, but rather a "leadership team" made up of the following:

- 2 main leaders (from the upper grades)
- 2 representatives per grade (one male and one female, if possible)
- 1 communications director (to send REMIND texts)
- 1 faculty liaison (if needed)
- 1 student to report attendance & decisions on the FP phone app

### QUALIFICATIONS FOR LEADERSHIP:

The ideal model for selecting leaders is as follows: the current student leader, along with a local FP representative or the teacher sponsor, will work together to identify students who are faithful in meeting attendance, serving others, and following the First Priority meeting model.

Student leaders must attend a REVIVE training meeting in August. If this is not possible, please contact a local FP representative to arrange onsite training for students.

It is strongly advised that all student leaders be a part of and regularly attend a church youth group. This is where they will be discipled and supported, which will be needed as they navigate the process of leading others..

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT STUDENT TRAINING: [INFOFIRSTPRIORITY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:INFOFIRSTPRIORITY@GMAIL.COM)

# First Priority Group: Letter of Intent to Meet

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Administration,

As a student speaking on behalf of my First Priority group, it is our intent to meet informally this school year. Our group is student-led, student-organized and does not elect leaders or collect dues. We are meeting informally to support and encourage each other.

Thank you so much,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Leader(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty Host

Meeting day/time/location:  
\_\_\_\_\_

As a student-led group, we have decided to use the meeting resources that are provided through First Priority of Tampa Bay, a registered 501(c)3 non profit.

# WORKSHEET FOR LAUNCHING A FIRST PRIORITY GROUP/CLUB:



Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your School's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Group/Club Leaders (list up to 3 names):

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Where do you attend church? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Where do you attend church? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Where do you attend church? \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Sponsor/Host(s):

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

What day will your group meet?      Where?      What time?

What date will your group launch?

Will you also meet on club day?      Where?      What period?

Your FP adult leaders: \_\_\_\_\_