

SAIR Chapter Guide

What does it look like to run a SAIR chapter?

Well, in large part, it's up to you. You can run a SAIR chapter at your school like a traditional club, with set leadership and schedule. Our guide follows this traditional format. However, you don't have to follow this format. You can run your chapter in any way that suits you and your greater community's needs. All chapters select a delegate to represent them at SAIR planning meetings and engage their local members in SAIR community events. All chapters run independently under the guidance of SAIR. SAIR will always be there for you if you need anything. You can contact us at saircincy@gmail.com

SAIR will sign off on volunteer hours if needed. These hours should be reported to saircincy@gmail.com as well as the process for signing off for a specific school. The chapter is responsible for keeping track of attendance and volunteer hours.

In instances where you hold a drive or make a product that needs to be distributed, contact saircincy@gmail.com for pickup. We will stay in touch with you and send someone to pick up the materials from a set location. We are not a registered 501(c)(3) and do not accept any funds, so make sure not to accept money. Rather, encourage that other items such as clothes are purchased and given as a donation.

Suggested Structure:

Chapter Board:

President: *This individual is the delegate of the SAIR chapter and in charge of communicating with the SAIR executive board. This person is in charge of planning and coordinating events as well as overseeing other board members.*

Vice President: *This individual serves as the president's second-hand and takes the role of president when they are not present. This individual is responsible for tracking volunteer hours and solidifying weekly plans.*

Drive Manager: *This individual is responsible for holding drives as wanted or in accordance with SAIR's drive schedule. This person will help raise awareness in their school about the drive and plan the collection of items. This person will additionally coordinate with the SAIR executive board to determine where drive items should be collected.*

Project Manager: *The Project Manager is responsible for editing and overseeing their member's projects and blogs before they send them to the SAIR website. This person will run the "writing" and "project" days and will proofread member's articles for errors and inappropriate elements.*

Activity Ideas:

- Discuss topics related to immigration. See below for potential topics.
- Create a Cincy story (see website)
- Create a blog post (see website)
- Plan a drive (get in touch with SAIR for pickup and distribution)
- Plan a volunteer opportunity (coordinate with SAIR if needed/to count volunteer hours)
- Plan a documentary/movie screening
- Discuss SAIR's volunteer opportunities
- Create a pamphlet as a group that helps describe American slang to a child arriving in the United States. Send this pamphlet to SAIR.
- Write a letter welcoming a family to the United States and letters wishing immigrant and refugee families good luck. These letters will be distributed in our baskets.

- Bring in a guest speaker to talk about their experiences as an immigrant or refugee. Try reaching out to local businesses!
- Have an international food day featuring food from local immigrant-owned businesses.
- Create a family story / family map - how did your family end up in the United States?
- Make bookmarks for kids
- Make a podcast to post on the SAIR website about an immigration-related issue. What is your family's story?
- Make a book for your club introducing new American kids to Cincinnati. Can you work together to write one in Spanish or French?
- Make a book for your club about family stories. Check out this example some 2nd graders were able to do!
<https://modelsofexcellence.education.org/projects/nuestras-historias-de-inmigraci%C3%B3n-our-immigration-stories>
- Understand undocumented immigration
<https://www.hightechhigh.org/hthcv/project/la-llaga-border-project/>

Topics for Discussion:

- The Immigration Process
- Green cards vs. citizenship
- The Path to Citizenship
- What situations create refugees?
- What is the distinction between a refugee and an immigrant?
- Documented vs. Undocumented Immigration
- How does immigration differ in the United States versus other nations?
- Where do most immigrants to the United States come from?
- How does the American government accommodate refugees versus immigrants?
- What does supporting refugees and immigrants in Cincinnati look like?
- What organizations in Cincinnati support immigrants and refugees?
- What does the legal process for obtaining citizenship look like?
- The history of American immigration - Chinese Exclusion Act, National Origins Quota, Immigration and Nationality Act 1965, etc.
- What is DACA?
- What human rights violations are occurring at the southern border?

- Where are refugees coming from? How do nations decide which and how many refugees they will take in? What sort of resources are refugees given when they arrive?
- What modern situations are creating the refugee crisis? Compare and contrast.
- What is life like as a newly-arrived immigrant?
- How might the immigration process appear different depending on

Suggested Schedule:

SAIR's upcoming schedule and drives will be announced periodically throughout the year as the community's needs may fluctuate. We will be in communication with each chapter's delegate to convey ideas, events, and fundraisers for other local organizations.

Week 1:

Planning for Board:

- Check SAIR website for updates as well as upcoming drives that you can participate in. Make sure that you have solidified your board!

In Meeting:

- Introduce the Chapter Board
- Describe SAIR and its mission
- Describe the year ahead - plans, establish goals
- Get-to-know-You for members

Week 2:

Planning for Board:

- Choose the resources you would like to use for this week's meeting and solidify plans for the meeting.

In Meeting:

- Discuss what it means to be an immigrant and/or refugee
- Refugeeism vs. General Immigration

- Have students describe their own family immigration stories if they desire or have them create a “family map” of their own family immigration story

Week 3:

Planning for Board:

- Pick 3 Cincinnati immigrant-owned organizations that you would like to spotlight. Check out our website for a few options!

In Meeting:

- Describe the 3 Cincinnati immigrant-owned organizations. Describe their stories as well as their business.
- Hold a group discussion on the importance of immigrant-owned organizations and how immigrants support our economy. For statistical information, check out <https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/immigrants-contribute-greatly-to-us-economy-despite-administrations>

Week 4:

Planning for Board:

- Pick 3 Cincinnati immigrant-owned organizations that you would like to spotlight. Check out our website for a few options!

In Meeting:

- Describe the 3 Cincinnati immigrant-owned organizations. Describe their stories as well as their business.
- Hold a group discussion on the importance of immigrant-owned organizations and how immigrants support our economy. For statistical information, check out <https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/immigrants-contribute-greatly-to-us-economy-despite-administrations>

Week 5:

Planning for Board:

- Check in to confirm the plan for the week.

In Meeting:

- Discuss the following questions using resources from the website as support - What does it mean to be a refugee? What situations give rise to refugees?
- Have students research an instance that has given rise to refugees. Have a group discussion and have students share the examples that they researched.

Week 6:

Planning for Board:

- Check in to confirm the plan for the week. Try and solidify a general plan for October.

In Meeting:

- Introduce students to SAIR's Blog program.
- Have students start researching to make a blog post about immigration/refugeeism or a local topic related to immigration.

Week 7:

Planning for Board:

- Check in to confirm the plan for the week. The Project manager should be ready to assist students when needed.

In Meeting:

- Have students start writing a blog post for SAIR.

Week 8:

Planning for Board:

- Check in to confirm the plan for the week. The Project Manager should be ready to assist students with submission.

In Meeting:

- Have students finish writing their Blog Posts for SAIR. The Project Manager should check over the posts if possible and help with submission.

Week of October 23rd

Planning for Board:

- Confirm the plan for the week.

In Meeting:

- Points for discussion: The Little Amal Project. What is the project? What is it trying to achieve?
- Watch the following video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bJIrp3l1K4w>

Week 9:

Planning for Board:

- Confirm the plan for the week.

In Meeting:

- Discuss the history of American immigration policy. How has American immigration policy changed? What were the big changes in American history?
<https://www.cato.org/policy-analysis/brief-history-us-immigration-policy-colonial-period-present-day>
- Watch the following video made by one of our student volunteers:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QPfk1L0f0&t=4s>

Week 10:

Planning for Board:

- Confirm the plan for the week.

In Meeting:

- Work together to plan a volunteer project. How will your chapter work to help Cincinnati immigrants and refugees during the upcoming holiday season? Consider a canned food drive or fundraiser for local organizations.
- Think about the community you would like to serve. If you're interested in helping out children, consider holding a Saturday tutoring event for kids (contact SAIR if you need some help!). If you're interested in helping out adults, think about resources that a newly arrived family might need such as cleaning supplies.

Week 11:

Planning for Board:

- Confirm the plan for the week. The Project Manager should familiarize themselves with the Cincy Stories Project.

In Meeting:

- Discuss the Cincy Stories Project
- Have students think about an immigrant or refugee they would like to reach out to for a story. Don't know where to start? Email SAIR to be matched with an immigrant or refugee or consider reaching out to an owner of a local immigrant-owned business. We have a list on our site!
- Discuss and plan the volunteer project you decided on last week.

Week 12:

Planning for Board:

- Confirm the plan for the week. The Project Manager should familiarize themselves with the Cincy Stories Project.

In Meeting:

- Have students begin working on their Cincy Stories Project.
- Discuss the volunteer event your chapter has planned and coordinate if needed.

Week 13:

Planning for Board:

- Confirm the plan for the week. The Project Manager should familiarize themselves with the Cincy Stories Project.

In Meeting:

- Have students continue working on the Cincy stories project.

Week 14:

Planning for Board:

- Confirm the plan for the week. The Project Manager should familiarize themselves with submitting the Cincy Stories project.

In Meeting:

- Have students continue working on the Cincy stories project.
- The Project Manager should help students submit the project as well as the category they should submit to.

Week 15:

Planning for Board:

- Confirm the plan for the week. The Project Manager should familiarize themselves with submitting the Cincy Stories project.

In Meeting:

- Have students continue working on the Cincy stories project.

- The Project Manager should help students submit the project as well as the category they should submit to.

Week 16:

Planning for Board:

- Confirm the plan for the week. Think about inviting in a guest speaker from the community.

In Meeting:

- If you have invited a speaker, have them talk at your club.
- If not, consider discussing immigration programs such as DACA. What is DACA? How did it arise? What happened to it? Do you think programs like these should be instituted in the United States?

Week 17:

Planning for Board:

- Confirm the plan for the week. Gather supplies to make bookmarks.

In Meeting:

- Make bookmarks for children! Make them fun and colorful to encourage reading!

Week 18:

Planning for Board:

- Confirm the plan for the week.

In Meeting:

- What does it mean to be an American? Learn about obtaining citizenship and discuss the path to citizenship. What is a Green Card? How do you become naturalized? What are ways to become a citizen?

Week 19:

Planning for Board:

- Confirm the plan for the week. Check out SAIR website and look at the “Take Action” Page

In Meeting:

- Explore SAIR’s Take Action page. How can students help in the community? Talk about the ways that students can serve through SAIR, from becoming a virtual friend or tutor to joining our executive board.

Week 20:

Planning for Board:

- Confirm the plan for the week. Plan a clothing drive. Socks and underwear are some of the most-needed items, but warm clothing and pants/t-shirts are also very important.

In Meeting:

- Work to spread news about the clothing drive. Plan the clothing drive. How will you work to spread the word? How long will the drive be? Make sure to reach out to SAIR

Week 21:

Planning for Board:

- Confirm the plan for the week.

In Meeting:

- Start working on a blog post

Week 22:

Planning for Board:

- Confirm the plan for the week.

In Meeting:

- Continue working on blog posts

Week 23:

Planning for Board:

- Confirm the plan for the week.

In Meeting:

- Submit blog posts

Week 24:

Planning for Board:

- Confirm the plan for the week.

In Meeting:

- Imagine you are a newly-arrived immigrant in the United States. What sort of guide do you think you would need? What sort of American customs do you think you would need to adapt to? Make a guide for immigrants about certain American customs (i.e tipping at restaurants and smiling at people when they cross the street). Consider researching what immigrants find most challenging to adjust to about American culture when they arrive. When you and your club finish, send the guide to SAIR and we'll look into publishing it on our website!

Week 25:

Planning for Board:

- Confirm the plan for the week.

In Meeting:

- Continue working on your “American Customs” Guide. Email to SAIR when you finish!

Week 26:

Planning for Board:

- Confirm the plan for the week.

In Meeting:

- How is the American government confronting immigration into the United States? How are they working with refugees coming from Ukraine and Syria? How about the immigrants at the Southern Border? Discuss what American immigration looks like today and how you think our immigration system could be improved.

Week 27:

Planning for Board:

- Confirm the plan for the week.

In Meeting:

- What are your favorite things to do in Cincinnati? What are fun free things to do for kids? Create a list of your favorite things and send them to SAIR for us to distribute and put on our website!

Week 28:

Planning for Board:

- Confirm the plan for the week.

In Meeting:

- What’s going on in Cincy? Do some research as a chapter on local needs of immigrants and refugees. What work do you think would be helpful? What projects do you think your chapter could host that would make an impact? If your

chapter solidifies an idea and would like assistance or help spreading the word, please email SAIR.

Week 29:

Planning for Board:

- Confirm the plan for the week. Make sure you have a plan for next year's executive board.

In Meeting:

- What does immigration look like around the world? How does it work in Great Britain and Qatar? Explore different immigration processes. How are they similar? How are they different?

Week 30:

Planning for Board:

- Confirm the plan for the week.

In Meeting:

- Imagine you're a child coming to the United States and suddenly American slang is in full force. What slang words would you like to know if you were a new American? Can you explain what "cap" and "bussin" mean? Create a guide for new kids and teens that explains some of the ins and outs of American slang. Work with students in your

Week 31:

Planning for Board:

- Confirm the plan for the week.

In Meeting:

- What does it mean to be an undocumented immigrant? What is the asylum process? How can an undocumented immigrant receive documents? Discuss these processes.

Week 32:

Planning for Board:

- Confirm the plan for the week. Make sure you have a plan for the executive board next year!

In Meeting:

- Write cards for kids who just arrived in the United States. Maybe write a funny little joke or give them a piece of advice. Try writing in Spanish or Arabic if you take the language!

Week 33:

Planning for Board:

- Confirm plan for the week.

In Meeting:

- What projects do you want SAIR to do? Think of some and submit them to our page. Brainstorm as a group!

Week 34:

Planning for Board:

- Confirm the plan for the week. Think about inviting in a guest speaker from the community.

In Meeting:

- If you have invited a speaker, have them talk at your club.
- If not, consider wrapping up the year and talking about what went well! Recap what you discussed and plan some events for next year.