

Like the message, but don't know where to begin?

It can be hard to build a community from scratch, but you don't have to to start a successful branch of LYCS. All it takes is taking stock of the communities and groups of which you're already a part, and taking the initiative to start a conversation.

This packet offers you the steps and resources you'll need to start a LYCS group and stay informed—call it a book club, call it a discussion group, call it an impromptu get-together with friends. The point is, you were inspired just because you picked up a book or came across a website. Let your friends discover LYCS in a way that works for them, and facilitate a meeting that will let that happen.

1. Make a mental inventory of your friends, coworkers, family, or students. Make note especially of anybody you think would be a good leader, anyone who is already involved in activism or philanthropy, and anyone with skills you think would be useful to a LYCS branch.
2. Consider the best approach for a first meeting. If you already belong to a book club or discussion group, suggest *The Life You Can Save* as next month's next. If you are a teacher or youth group leader, read a chapter to the group, ask some questions, and take it from there. If you are skilled at networking, take a note from campaign activists—send an email to your contacts with an excerpt from the book and invite them over for hors d'oeuvres and discussion.
3. At your first meeting, have something to say. It doesn't have to be an award-winning speech, but it has to be personal and relevant. People are more likely to want to join forces or help you out if you already have a direction. If you have already identified an issue or organization that you're especially passionate about, set up a donation jar and informational brochures. Brush up on a few talking points on what about the book or the ethical lifestyle that particularly strikes or inspires you. Also take a look at the reading list and information list for extra resources, discussion questions, and talking points, and make sure to use them at your event.
4. Have at least one solid first goal or step towards establishing your branch. Make sure you convey to your group the reasons for the step and what you think it will accomplish. Explain the process and what they can do to help you and take it further. This can be something as simple as planning a second meeting, writing a letter to an elected official, or hosting a car wash to earn money to send to a philanthropic organization.
5. Once you have a group of dedicated individuals, set up regular meetings, keep reaching out and networking with others, and let the movement grow!