



## **NETWORKING MEETUP TOOLKIT**

Are you ready to host a networking event for your LSCU YPG chapter, but don't know where to start? Let this toolkit be your guide to help you run a successful meetup!

### **What is a meetup?**

A LSCU Young Professionals Group meetup is a great way to get all of your local chapter's YPs in one place to share ideas, collaborate to grow the credit union movement, tackle problems, network and learn from each other, and make an impact in your local community.

### **Why have a meetup?**

To help grow or start the YP movement in your local chapter. The LSCU YPG movement lives by the idea of "strength in numbers", so the more YPs that you can help be part of your local chapter, the better!

### **Who should go to the meetups?**

Anyone in your local chapter that qualifies as a YP—a credit union employee/volunteer or employee of a CUSO that is 40 years old and under.

### **How do we get started?**

The best way to coordinate a successful YP networking meetup is to have a group that plans the event. Meetups can take some work and coordination based on the size and scope of what you'd like to do. It is recommended that you try to get a YP from each of the credit unions in your chapter to form a committee. These YPs will also promote the event at their respective credit unions to help increase event attendance. Your local chapter board is usually a great starting point to help identify the YPs that could be part of the committee.

Once you have formed a committee (or at least a handful of volunteers), it's time to start meeting to organize the networking event. The below checklist and recommendations serve as great resources to help get you started. The Member Engagement team at the League of Southeastern Credit Unions & Affiliates is also a great resource to help you along the way.

Some helpful advice:

- It's all about location, location, location! Pick a fun place to have your meetup that lends itself to having good conversations and room for activities you'd like to have, if any.
- Some successful meetups have been held at restaurants, credit union meeting rooms, breweries, bowling alleys, and other popular local venues.
- Have an agenda of goals you'd like to accomplish during the meetup. This can include promoting future YP events, asking for volunteers, and sharing industry updates or professional development topics.

## What happens at a meetup?

The great thing is that it's really up to you! A great way to start is to assess the needs of your chapter's young professionals. Below are a few suggestions.

For your first networking meetup:

- Introduce to your attendees what the credit union young professional group is – use the [Young Professionals Group page](#) on the LSCU website as a guide.
- Introduce your committee and highlight the credit unions that are represented at your event.
- If possible, have a member of your local chapter board available to talk about the chapter.
- Have icebreaker activities to help spark conversations between attendees.
- Create a networking environment by having a seating chart so attendees will sit with YPs from other credit unions. Simply encouraging attendees to sit with someone they don't see everyday will work as well.
- Remind attendees to bring business cards.
- Partner up with a local charity and have your attendees bring items to donate. For example, school supplies for a local at-risk children's home, canned food for a local food bank, clothing donations for a local shelter, etc. Make sure to let everyone know where their donations are going and opportunities to volunteer directly with the organization.
- It is very important that you keep a list of those that attend your meetup. Be sure to have a sign-in table and have a laptop available so attendees can register to become a member of the YP group through the LSCU website. Our movement is all about strength

in numbers, so it's important that we have new YPs register whenever possible. After the meetup, send any photos to Jordan or Alisha (contact info below). We love sharing the great work of our YPs throughout the Southeast!

- After the meetup, make sure to send an email to those that attended and keep them in the loop of upcoming YP events/ community activities that you will hold.

Some ideas of what you can do at your meetups:

- Try to have something that helps your local community as part of your meetup. Hosting a drive for school supplies, clothing, blankets, toiletries, toys or other types of donations are a great way to get started. Many communities post a listing of local non-profits online, so be sure to check your local resources for ideas.
- Ice breakers and networking activities make it easier for conversations among YPs. Check out Pinterest for inspiration on fresh activities.
- Give an update to attendees about recent advocacy issues and have additional information or contact info of [LSCU's Advocacy team](#) available to those who are interested.
- Make it fun! Try to get your hands on a few donated items or gift cards to give as raffle prizes during your meeting. Vendors who participate in your local chapter's activities are always the best place to start.
- Some activities you can have at your meeting include:
  - A round table discussion: separate into groups and have pre-written questions/discussion topics that deal with YPs. Groups can also be separated by business function, such as marketing, lending, frontline, etc. Have attendees randomly select the questions from the middle and discuss amongst themselves to get the conversation started.
  - Build your own credit union activity: separate into groups and have attendees create their own credit union without any limits. Elements to choose include the name, logo, field of membership, what they will specialize in, and products/services to offer.
  - Host a financial reality fair for a local school or youth group. Visit the Southeastern Credit Union Foundation's [website](#) for financial education and community development resources.
  - Host a CEO panel: invite the CEOs of chapter credit unions to attend the meeting and answer questions from the audience. Make sure you have a moderator for the panel.
  - Invite local community leaders for a quick leadership presentation, or another topic relevant to their industry and local young professionals.
  - Invite local elected officials for a meet and greet event with your YPs and utilize the opportunity to share our credit union advocacy issues.

- Hold professional development presentations. “Leadership Skills”, “Communication Skills”, “The Dos and Don’t of Social Media”, or other topics that will interest your audience. If you’re not sure, consider conducting a survey to gather recommendations.
- Hold a community service activity with a local charity or community organization.
- Invite a representative of the League of Southeastern Credit Unions & Affiliates as a speaker to talk about their department.
- Invite the YPs to [follow the YPG on social media](#)
- Keep a list of how many YPs attend your meetings and collect their contact info to follow up with details of future events. Send any photos to your YP advisors (Jordan or Alisha) to highlight your event!

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Have more questions that we didn’t answer here? Your LSCU YP Advisors are always available to help. Just send us an email at:

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