

Top 10 Tips

For Leading SUPA & ISCF

1

SU is Here For You!

Know that you are not in this alone! Our schools' team is here to support and serve you providing pastoral care, prayer support, free resources, training opportunities, school-related events, advocacy, advice, and guidance throughout the year.

SU NSW has a wide range of high-quality resources for fellowship, outreach and discipleship, available free for SUPA and ISCF volunteers. Our resources aim to allow young people to interact with the Bible in fun and age-appropriate ways, suitable in a lunchtime setting. We understand that organising biblical lunchtime content each week can be time-consuming, so we want our resources to empower you! At SUHQ, our resource library is available to browse or we can post resources to you (we only charge for postage).

Details and order forms for all SUNSW resources can be found on the SU NSW website.

Get in Contact:

online: sunsw.org.au
email: schools@sunsw.org.au
phone: (02) 9638 9000
 (9am to 5pm, Mon-Fri)

2

Honour the School You Serve

As good guests, we respect the expectations of the host school in areas of health, compliance, safety, and regulations.

This includes:

- **Principal permission and accountability** – groups require principal approval to run. Principals may request a summary of your content, attendance records and permission notes.
- **Volunteer verification** – SUNSW verifies that registered volunteers have a cleared WWCC (Working with Children Check), approved child protection training and referee checks completed.
- **Parental permission** – permission notes must be returned for students to attend.
- **Attendance records** – regulations now stipulate that Scripture Union need to keep a copy of attendance rolls on file so we will contact you at the end of each school term to obtain a copy.
- **Refraining from proselytising** – “Proselytising or converting non-adherents refers to behaviours intended to put pressure on students who do not have permission to participate in VSA.” (Religious Education policy - DoE)

For more info please refer to Voluntary Student Activities information from the DoE. All the essential Schools Forms can be found on our website.

3

Create a Fun, Healthy & Welcoming Culture

Lunchtime groups are fun, welcoming environments where students can explore and ask questions about faith in an informal setting. Aims of lunch groups include:

- For students to grow in their faith and knowledge of Christian spirituality.
- To promote wellbeing and spiritual health amongst students.
- To empower students to lead and have a voice.
- To create a safe and inclusive environment for students to explore issues of faith and spirituality.

Get creative, Bible engagement should be interactive, engaging, and short. Support what you're exploring with fun games, engaging discussion, and practical prayer. Consider incorporating drama, actions, songs, activities, videos, visuals and challenging questions. Focus on establishing relationships. Let students volunteer to pray or read aloud if they feel confident to do so. Remember student input is invaluable in effectively demonstrating the relational, functional and well-being characteristics of SU NSW lunchtime groups as shown here: SU Schools Brochure



4

Be Inclusive, Perceptive and Adaptive

meet students as they are, where they are

Take into account the unique characteristics of your lunchtime group, recognising the diversity of student faith journeys, interests, learning styles, backgrounds and knowledge. Aim to be accessible and appealing to both Christian and non-Christian students who are exploring issues of life and faith. Avoid Christian jargon, theological terms, and long prayers. Welcome complex questions and ask if you can get back to the group if necessary (ask a pastor/chaplain/mentor). Regarding controversial issues, validate the worth of the student and the value of the question.



5

Grow Young Leaders

Raising up student leaders within the group will empower students in their leadership giftings. Allow students to prepare and lead a game, read the Bible, lead creative prayer, lead a discussion, or lead Bible engagement time. Our SUNSW resources are designed with student leaders in mind eg. [ISCF lunchbox](#), [Chat-a-Box](#).

Training program:

- [L.E.A.D. Resource](#) (Leadership Encouragement And Development) – a seven-session course designed to train young leaders

Connection, Prayer & Training events:

- Training Days at SUHQ, Rydalmere, in the regions and online.
- [SU Leadership Conference](#) – a life-changing five-day residential camp for student leaders held in the July school holidays at multiple locations.



"We will not lose this generation of young people because we ask too much of them. We will lose them because we ask too little."

Tony Campolo

6

How are You Seen?

Promote your group! Seek permission from the principal re methods of promotion in the school community e.g. posters, school newsletter, flyers in SRE classes, assembly announcements, roll announcements etc. Encourage the students to invite their friends to lunchtime groups, pressure-free. You can use this editable poster! [School Group Editable Poster](#)

Consider onlookers' perceptions – teachers, other students and staff. Aim to be above reproach, unashamed of the message you share, actively showing love to the school community.



Philippians (NIV) 2:15

"...so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation. Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky."

7

Pray



At SU NSW, we believe in the power of prayer! We want all our ISCF and SUPA groups covered in prayer, so, get connected today!

SU Pray:

We have a large group of committed prayer partners so please let us know if you have any prayer requests or praise points. More info: [SU Pray](#).

School Prayer Groups:

In partnership with Generate, we encourage local prayer groups for schools. If there is not a local prayer group for your school/s, consider inviting people to join you to pray once a month – local churches, youth pastors/leaders, Christian parents and students, Christian staff, primary & high school SRE teachers, chaplains and interested Christians. You can find more info here: [Prayer Groups for Schools](#).

8 Stay Connected

You are not in this alone!

Connect with other volunteers

SU NSW has always encouraged its lunchtime group leaders and students to get together for mutual encouragement, fellowship, planning and prayer. This is what the "inter-school" part of ISCF refers to!

- Meet with other volunteers and brainstorm activities you could do in your schools or plan a joint event. If you would like to explore the idea of a combined ISCF/SUPA Club camp, please contact us. We can support you with all the important and necessary safety measures, including risk assessments, insurance, child protection compliance, registration, programming etc. Anything affiliated with SUNSW needs to be approved by our team before it is advertised.
- Join our SUPA Club Volunteers and ISCF Volunteers Facebook group. Connect with other volunteers and staff who have a common passion for sharing the love of Jesus, share stories, ask questions, share prayer and praise points.

Join here: [SUPA ISCF](#)

Connect with other Christians

- Share with your own church how they can support you and pray with/for you.
- Join in a prayer group for local schools or SUNSW prayer times & be encouraged as you meet like-minded people.
- Think about Christian leaders in the community who you could invite to share in your ministry through prayer/volunteering/visiting your group eg. Retired Teachers, SRE Teachers, Chaplains, Parents, Youth Leaders, Camp Team Members, Teachers, Prayer Supporters, Local Ministers, Local Councillor, Businesspeople etc.
- Invite your lunch group to attend other ministries of local churches e.g., youth groups, camps, church, church events. Avoid promoting one church only – we are a multi-denominational movement.

Connect with SU NSW

- Invite your students to attend [SU camps](#) and events to grow their faith!
- Contact SU NSW if you would like to talk, pray, or debrief about your lunch group.
- Connect with your [regional coordinator](#), and get involved with other SUNSW ministries in your area.

9 Reflect and Grow

Take time to reflect upon your ISCF/SUPA lunchtime group:

- What went well?
- What could be improved?
- How is God working?

If applicable, have regular meetings with your leadership team to discuss, as well as engage in personal reflection and prayer.

Students who are consulted and listened to will develop a sense of healthy "ownership." So, discuss your reflections with the student leadership team together with gathering and listening to feedback from students attending.

Implement your reflections. Weed out things that did not work as well and refine the things that did work well. Be brave, try new things, seek growth.

10 Remember Who You are Working For

Be encouraged. This work you are doing is God's not your own. Be attentive to His direction and His calling. God loves these students; He wants to "grow" them and bring them into his Kingdom. Keep focused on Him, holding relationships over programs and plans.



"The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed but wants everyone to repent."

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NLT)

2 Peter (NIV) 3:9

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."