OHIO FOUNDERS LEAGUE · SEASON I · 2026–27

Campus Lead Guide

How MyCampus works, and why the League asks what it asks of you.

For university campus leads. Built from the same rules the platform runs on.

STAY. BUILD. WIN. · EST. 2026 · A CHAPTER OF THE FOUNDERS LEAGUE INSTITUTE

ofl-platform.vercel.app/learn · Founders League Institute, a nonprofit. The League takes no equity.

IN THIS GUIDE

Campus Lead Guide

This guide explains the Campus Activation Phase from your side: what you do in MyCampus, how each action works, and why the League built it that way. It is short enough to read before the announcement.

Every number in this guide comes from the League's scoring engine. If the platform and this document ever disagree, the platform is right and this document is out of date.

On the web, with the Score Sandbox and the narrated walkthrough:
ofl-platform.vercel.app/learn/campus-leads

Your role, and why the window is short

Get every strong student venture on your campus registered, verified, and considered for nomination between September 29 and November 20, 2026.

WHY IT MATTERS

The League needs one thing from each founding university that nobody else can provide: knowledge of who is actually building on that campus. The best student ventures are often not in any entrepreneurship program. They are in a dorm, a lab, or a group chat. The campus lead is the person who knows, or can find out.

The window is short and there is no second wave because the 36 Playoff ventures are announced on December 4 and the Playoff starts January 15. A venture that misses the cutoff misses the season. The playbook recommends 10 to 15 nominations per campus so the Selection Committee sees real choice from every school.

Your standing among the ten founding universities is your campus points: the sum of your verified ventures' Traction Scores. Every stage a venture clears is credited in full, and a venture placed above Stage 0 at registration starts with the stages below it credited, so a campus that registers real businesses and gets them verified scores for what those businesses have already built. It rises when your founders build. That is the only way it rises.

HOW IT WORKS

1. Sign in to MyCampus before the announcement and check your details.
2. List the ventures you already know. Find the ones you do not.
3. Register, chase verification, reach out, review, nominate. Ten to fifteen by November 20.

DATE	WHAT HAPPENS
September 29, 2026	Public announcement
November 20, 2026	Campus Activation Phase data cutoff
December 4, 2026	36 Playoff ventures announced, mentors assigned
January 15, 2027	PLAYOFF OFFICIALLY STARTS
March 9, 2027	Cincinnati Regional Championship (South Ohio) (12 ventures, 5 judges)
March 10, 2027	Columbus Regional Championship (Central Ohio)
March 11, 2027	Cleveland Regional Championship (North Ohio)
March 14, 2027	Selection Sunday (3 auto + 7 selected = 10)
May 5, 2027	Blackout
May 19, 2027	STATE CHAMPIONSHIP (State Champion crowned, $500,000 awarded)

Two ways in, and why the founder must verify

Students register themselves and appear as New. Or you register a venture on a founder's behalf and they verify it.

WHY IT MATTERS

Both paths exist because both are real. Some founders will hear about the League before you reach them and register directly. Others you already know well and can enter yourself, which saves them the work and gets your campus moving before the announcement.

The verification step is not bureaucracy. A venture you register carries claims about stage, challenges done, and revenue, and the stage it is placed at comes with starting credit for every stage below it, so those claims will be verified by an official at the founder's first Stage Final Challenge review. So the founder has to own them first. Until they open the verification link, review every step, adjust anything wrong, and accept, the venture is not scored, not on any leaderboard, and not in the Scout market. No founder is ever scored on a claim they did not make.

HOW IT WORKS

1 Self-registered: the venture appears on your Ventures page marked Needs review, and as your next move on the dashboard. Reach out first. They may not know you exist.

2 Add a venture: complete the same five steps a founder would, with the founder's name and email. They get a verification link by email and a notification in the platform. The venture shows Awaiting founder verification until they accept.

3 Chase acceptance within a few days. Nothing counts until they do.

STATUS	MEANING
Awaiting founder verification	Registered by the campus. Not scored or listed until the founder verifies and accepts.
Verified	Founder verified and accepted the profile. They own it from here.
Declined by founder	Founder said this profile is not theirs or declined to participate.

The outreach workflow, and why every step leaves a note

New, Contacted, Watching or Not nominating, Nominated. Each move is a real action with a record.

WHY IT MATTERS

A nomination window across ten campuses only works if every campus can show its work. So Reach out is not a mailto link. It sends a templated message from the platform, records a note on the venture, and sets a follow-up date, and the status moves to Contacted. Follow-ups due and founder replies come back to your dashboard, so nothing depends on memory.

Review opens the whole venture: stage, profile, challenges, weekly reports, Scout activity. From there you set Watching with a date, or Not nominating with a reason. The reason is required because the League Office reads it when a founder asks why. A campus that can explain its decisions is a campus founders trust.

The status is yours to set and it never touches the venture's score. Scores come from what founders report and what officials verify. Keeping those two things separate is what makes both of them credible.

HOW IT WORKS

1 Reach out: pick a template (introduction, nomination invitation, request for information), edit it, send. Follow-up date set.

2 Review: read the profile. Set Watching with a date, or Not nominating with a reason.

3 Nominate: from the alert card, from the venture page, or select several in the registry and nominate together.

4 Ventures you registered yourself are nominated when the founder verifies, since you already vouched for them.

STATUS	MEANING
New	Self-registered, not yet reviewed by the campus.
Contacted	Outreach sent; waiting on the founder.
Watching	Reviewed; revisit on the follow-up date.
Not nominating	Reviewed; campus decided not to nominate, with a reason on file.
Nominated	Submitted to the Selection Committee.

Nominations, and what the Selection Committee sees

Nominate 10 to 15 by November 20. The committee names the 36 on December 4.

WHY IT MATTERS

The committee does not see your opinion of a venture. It sees the venture's record: stage and how it was earned, challenges done, weekly reports, verified Stage Final Challenges, and Scout backing. That is why the most useful thing you can do for a venture you believe in is get it registered early and reporting every week. A nominated venture with eight weeks of reports beats a nominated venture with a good story.

Ten to fifteen is the recommendation because fewer than ten leaves the committee guessing about your campus and more than fifteen dilutes the signal. The dashboard flags you either side of the range.

HOW IT WORKS

1. Open Nominations to see the count against the 10 to 15 rule, the deadline, and every nominated venture.
2. Nominate from a venture's page, or tick candidates at the bottom of Nominations and submit them together.
3. Remove a nomination any time before the deadline.
4. Tell nominated founders to keep reporting. The record is what advances them.

5 OF 5

Standings, Scouts, audits, and reporting to leadership

One set of numbers for everyone, Scouts from your campus, alerts when an audit touches a venture, and a CSV for leadership.

WHY IT MATTERS

There is one leaderboard. Founders, campus leads, Scouts, and officials all see the same numbers, and the University tab ranks all ten founding universities on campus points. When your standing moves, you and your founders see it move for the same reason.

Scouts are the way a campus turns out for its founders. Anyone at your university can register as a Scout and pick up to 5 ventures for their portfolio. No money is involved at any point, so there is no fundraising or compliance question for your campus. Scouts are 10 percent of League Scoring at live events, based on how many portfolios a venture is in, so a campus that turns out Scouts carries its founders onto the stage. The Scouts page shows who from your campus is playing, their points, and their league rank.

When an official audits one of your ventures at a Stage Final Challenge review and points come off, you are notified along with the founder and every Scout holding it, and the reason is public on the profile. Nothing is required of you, but founders often call their campus lead first. Point them to their evidence and to the Challenges page, where the audit is explained.

HOW IT WORKS

1 Leaderboard: your ventures across cohorts, and the University tab. Click any university to see its ventures.

2 Scouts: recruit student organizations, faculty, and alumni. The Scouts page shows every Scout from your campus.

3 Export CSV from the Ventures page for your season report to leadership, and again on December 4 to show who made the 36.