

6. Arrange a date and time for your YDO to give a presentation to the potential group members. This could be done after a Mass, Liturgy or assembly, where the VC receives the starter pack of resources from the YDO.
7. As soon as possible after the presentation – ideally the next day – hold the first meeting for the new members signing up. This is where the members' resources are distributed to each teenager (certificates are sent from National Office each April-May). At the same time, your YDO will be registering your new Youth SVP or B-Attitude Conference with National Office. The Commissioning Ceremony can take place at the same time.
8. From this point on, the YDOs and National Office are available to support your budding Conference, (as well as a local adult SVP conference where possible).
9. Experience tells us that the most successful Youth SVP groups are those that have strong links with their adult Conference. Ensure that strong relationships between the teens and the adult members of the Conference exists.

### How do I know what's appropriate activity for the young people to do in the future?

Your local adult SVP coordinator and the YDO will be able to advise you, but the main restriction is that young people under 18 are not permitted to undertake visits to private homes, even with an adult SVP member supervising. However, there are many other valuable things that child or youth members can do – see the examples above.

### How do I find more information?

Call 0207 703 3030 or email [youngvincentians@svp.org.uk](mailto:youngvincentians@svp.org.uk). Also, visit [www.svp.org.uk/youthdevelopment](http://www.svp.org.uk/youthdevelopment).



## INTRODUCTION TO SETTING UP A YOUTH SVP OR SVP B-ATTITUDE GROUP

There are apostolates within the Saint Vincent de Paul Society aimed specifically at children, adolescents, teenagers and young adults. **Youth SVP serves adolescents aged 11-14, and B-Attitude serves upper teens aged 14-18. Our excellent resources and activities empower our young people to not only undertake voluntary work in their local community while developing their faith and spirituality, but also begin making concrete acts of charity in the parish or the school where the group sets up.**

All activities are supervised by responsible adults and are appropriate to the applicable age groups.

If you are a parent, teacher, conference member, or a member of the general public, who is interested in starting a Youth SVP or B-Attitude group in your local school or parish, just follow this simple guide...



## Step-by-step guide

1. Identify someone within the school (1 person) or parish (1+ persons) to act as the adult supervisor to set-up the group, attend meetings and to encourage and advise members. These supervisors are called Vincentian Coordinators (VC). This may be you or someone else, or you may share the role with others. All VCs must be DBS checked in the last three years.
2. Contact SVP National Office on 0207 703 3030 to tell them of your plans. You will be allocated a Youth Development Officer (YDO) from your regional SVP Central Council to help you with organisation and to provide resources. You, any other coordinators and the YDO will need to meet to prepare your plan.
3. Get the support of the Headteacher / Parish Priest, and make contact with the most local adult SVP conference to the school or parish before you proceed further.
4. Next, identify a target group – it could be a particular school year (e.g. with the SVP group running within RE classes) or it could be a pre-Confirmation or post-Confirmation collective in the parish. Lunchtime and after-school clubs are very popular.



5. With the YDO you should now start planning the external activities for your new Conference. You need to have activities already in mind, ready to start as soon as your Conference begins. These need to be checked beforehand.

Ideas for planned external activities include:

- Having food collections (for a local food bank, for example)
- Helping with assemblies
- Making and sending Christmas cards
- Carol singing in residential homes
- Reading at Mass
- Hosting tea parties for local parishioners in need of human interaction
- Running a bingo evening once a year for local lonely parishioners
- Pilgrimage walks/hikes
- Visiting the sick in hospitals to talk to patients, making and distributing "get well" cards
- Collaborate on one of the projects that the local Adult SVP Conference are engaging in
- ... and lots more!

