

Q: How do you get people interested in joining?

A: Spread the word through classes on related subjects, club fairs, teachers and advisers, and e-mail list-servs (existing or your own). It is also extremely helpful to post flyers around campus, create a Facebook group, collaborate with other clubs, bring in speakers, and tell your friends in order to jump-start your efforts.

Q: What makes it radical?

A: Campus Icarus is about expanding the options and language around psychic differences. We don't invalidate more traditional takes on these experiences; we just try to add more possibilities. As part of a college campus, we will inherently have one foot in the mainstream, but our goal is to create a complementary alternative and/or supplement to the existing mental health services available to students. The Icarus Project is all about empowerment and making individuals aware of the current state of mental health and the different options available. We embrace all sorts of alternatives to the standard model and don't subscribe to the idea that people with mad gifts are essentially diseased, disordered, broken, or faulty. We are exploring unknown territory and don't steer by the default maps outlined by the bio-medical or any other model. Rather, we're making new maps. We raise questions and respect and even encourage differences of opinion.

Frequently Asked Questions



Q: What is Campus Icarus' objective?

A: The Icarus Project envisions a new culture and language that resonates with our actual experiences of 'mental illness' rather than trying to fit our lives into a conventional framework. Campus Icarus works to build off of this idea and create a student community working to expand the dialogue around mental health, question the normative framework, and provide students with support in both their academic and personal experiences with mental health. It can be seen as an alternative to and/or supplement the existing college mental health services and traditional psychology curriculum.

Q: How does one get Campus Icarus up and running?

A: Starting a CI group involves finding a committed group of individuals to develop your own vision of a Campus Icarus. This may involve getting the word out, planning events, and tending to administrative duties. Time commitments can vary depending on the number of organizers and how active you want the group to be. Look through the CI seed packet and web forums for an idea of what projects other CI groups have done. Start by picking a project that speaks to you, and rally co-organizers!

Q: How much money does it cost to get this project going?

A: Costs will vary by project and depend on your goals. There are many ways to obtain funding, including: apply for a budget granted by your school to official clubs, hold a fundraiser, ask for donations at the event or workshop you host, and/or apply for a grant from your school to pay an honorarium to speakers you want to have come to your campus. Co-sponsorship with other campus groups is also a good way to pool resources. While certain aspects of events (speakers, space, food, etc.) require money, there are also ways to cut back on costs and still have an active Campus Icarus group. Consider holding meetings at members' houses and having potlucks or events where members contribute supplies. As an official school club, you will likely be able to get funding for bigger events. The goals and resources of your group will ultimately dictate the costs.

Q: What kind of and how much support will we receive from the Icarus Project?

A: The Icarus Project has coordinators that work one-on-one with student organizers specifically to support Campus Icarus' growth. Whether it be through assembled materials, the forums, or working directly with The Icarus Project coordinators, TIP is here to help. Based on the kind of support you need, you can utilize: the seed packet, workshop guides, documentation of other CI groups' successes and challenges, a network of student organizers on campuses everywhere, guidance from mentors who have organized groups in the past, and connections to presenters to bring to your campus.

Q: What difficulties did you encounter?

A: Common obstacles, constraints, and suggestions for how to handle these concerns are addressed in the Students' Guide to Organizing.

Q: How is starting a Campus Icarus club different than starting any other student club on campus?

A: Starting a Campus Icarus club may be very much like starting any other student club. You can hold regular club meetings, delegate tasks to members, organize campus events and parties, rally students to engage in protests or campaigns,, and represent the club at school fairs. Additionally, there are also unique components that you may choose to incorporate into a Campus Icarus club - namely, the option of starting a peer support group. It is important to keep in mind that while Campus Icarus can be a club like any other, the endeavor you are undertaking often involves more than just event planning and organizing due to the nature of the group. Campus Icarus groups tend to be more than just clubs - they're communities - and it takes awareness to maintain a safe space when sensitive issues or situations come up.

Q: What might a club meeting look like?

A: Event suggestions and resources are included in both the Students' Guide to Organizing and the Event Suggestions, Tips, and Resources sheet.