

Chapter Leader Guide

The Ultimate Guide
to Starting & Running
an ESW Chapter



ESW HEADQUARTERS

Chapter Leader Guide

Published October 2015

Acknowledgments

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And thanks to you, reader, for viewing this document.

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About This Document

Running a chapter (or just starting one) can seem like a daunting task. We're here to help. This document was put together to answer all the basic questions about ESW chapters, and a few of the advanced ones as well. It's a living document and needs updating occasionally, both to fix broken links or out-of-date materials and to add new knowledge on what works best. We hope you find it valuable—and we'd like to know what you think either way.



A message from the author

What else is there to say? I am all out of words. Everything I have to say about leadership, management, and ESW has been said here in this document. But since these sorts of things always have messages from the author, I suppose I can squeeze a few more words out.

I started out as a President of my ESW chapter at Smith College. I mean that quite literally. I became President my second semester at college. This was both good and bad. Good for my personal development. Bad for the transition of ESW-Smith. By being thrust into a leadership position so early on in my career, I learned the hard way and I learned quickly. There was no time for mistakes, I had big dreams for my chapter and dammit I was going to make it happen.

I may have not gotten to every project, every event, every weird idea I had, but I did get something even better. I got this guide. My

year and a half of running my ESW chapter was the best crash course in leadership private college tuition could afford.

And now I get to share that knowledge with you all. It is a privilege to finally synthesize and communicate not only my best practices, but the best practices from the other chapter leaders I have talked with over the past two years during my time working with ESW-Headquarters. I hope that by reading this guide you begin to think more critically about leadership and management within your chapter. I hope this saves you from the anxiety and frustration I faced as a chapter leader.

Lastly, I hope you learn that everything--that one project that seems like it will never get finished, that grant you are worried about--will be okay.

All my best,
Brittany Bennett
Education Coordinator

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