

How to Get Involved with the Young Americans for Liberty at Virginia Tech

Note: * denotes that the term is defined in the glossary.



What is the Virginia Tech chapter of Young Americans for Liberty*? It is the most active chapter and political club on campus. Young Americans for Liberty advocates freedom, capitalism*, minimization of the state, fiscal responsibility, and peace. The chapter and organization's mission, promoting liberty through political activism* and education.

The club was founded in 2010 as the Libertarians at Virginia Tech. In spring 2013 the club joined with the national Young Americans for Liberty origination to become the YAL's first chapter at Virginia Tech. The club currently has 80 undergrad and 6 graduate students as members, with 30 – 40 of those members currently active. Joining our chapter of Young Americans for Liberty is a great way to increase your political knowledge/understanding, improve your debating skills, network with new people, and to get more involved on campus.

If you are unsure of your political standing or simply do not know much about libertarianism, we encourage you to visit the "about" page on our group's Facebook. On our about page, you can find many helpful resources. Such as links to Young Americans for Liberty, the National Libertarian Party*, Students for Liberty, and the libertarian welcome gift pack*. The gift pack is the best place to start for people new to libertarianism, as those seven videos defines what it means to be a Libertarian. If you are still unsure after reading through our about page and watching the videos, we welcome you to come out to our weekly Thursday meetings at 7pm in Whittemore Hall Rm 277.

Overall, getting involved with Virginia Tech's chapter of Young Americans for Liberty is a fun and easy experience. If someone wants to become a member of the club after attending a few meetings, all it takes is a few steps. As a member, you are encouraged to attend the weekly meetings, along with helping out on our social projects when possible. However, in the spirit of true liberty there are no required meetings or

activities. Your involvement with the club can as extensive or minimal as you wish. The club as a whole is very passionate about important issues of liberty and welcomes debate on the topics in any form, regardless of political standing!

The step-by-step guide: How to become a Young Americans for Liberty chapter member.

required material

- Working computer
- Facebook account
- Email account
- 25\$ (If you decide to join the club)
- A positive and welcoming attitude

Step 1. Become a member of the facebook group/like the group's facebook page.

- Find our site at [facebook.com/vt.liberty](https://www.facebook.com/vt.liberty), sign in with your account. Then like YAL at VT to get daily club updates.



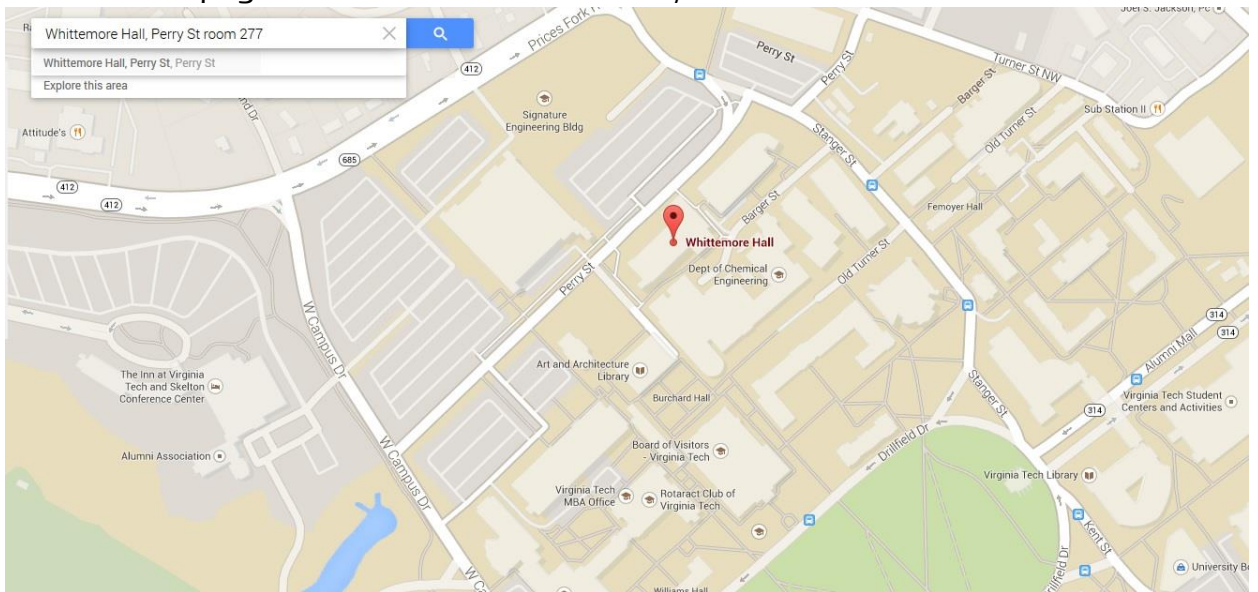
Step 2. Join our list serv*

- After joining the facebook page, message the group using the circled button below with your @vt.edu account and you will be added to the listserv.



Step 3. Join our weekly Thursday meetings.

- On Tuesdays at 7pm, join our club for its weekly meeting in Whittemore hall room 277. (Meeting times are consistent, but any changes will be announced through our facebook page and listserv well in advance.)



(Location of weekly meetings)

Step 4. Become a member of YAL

- If you feel YAL is the right place for you, then becoming a member is your next course of action. To become a full member just takes two easy steps.

1. Pay Club dues: Write a check to “Treasurer for Young Americans for Liberty at Virginia Tech” for the current dues amount. (Currently 25\$ per year, but talk with a club officer to know the current dues rate before writing the check)
2. Give the check to the club treasurer at the next meeting.

Step 5. Getting involved!

- Now as a full member, it's time to get involved in all of our activities as there are plenty of options to choose from in the chapter and organization.
- Such as, joining the group at our local range* for the monthly gun safety and practice day.



(YAL member at range day)

- Participating in the group's activism. For instance, our free-speech/"freedom" wall* (pictured below) and empty holster day* (not pictured).



(“Freedom wall” on the drill field.)

- Going to club sponsored conferences. For Example, the annual International Students for Liberty* conference in Washington D.C.



(YAL member asking a question on the Stossel show filmed during a Students for Liberty conference)

Descriptive Terms

Young American for Liberty (YAL): The largest, most active, and fastest-growing pro-liberty organization on America's college campuses.

Libertarian: A person who supports maximum liberty in both personal and economic matters

National Libertarian Party: A national political party that upholds and promotes the ideas of libertarianism (freedom as a rational end) and laissez-faire* style free-market capitalism.

Students for Liberty: Network of pro-freedom students from around the world, who use the organization to train and empower pro-liberty groups from across the country.

Laissez-Faire style market: An economy in which transactions between private parties are free from government interference.

Libertarian welcome gift pack: A set of seven videos on our Facebook page that defines what it is to be a libertarian.

Listserv: A way of communicating through email commonly used by the young American for liberty to make announcements to the club as a whole.

Political Activism: the practice of vigorous action or involvement as a means of achieving political goals, as by demonstrations, protests, etc.

Range: a specialized facility designed for firearms practice.

free-speech/"freedom" wall: Two 5'x10' blackboards that were placed on the dill field for a day.

Empty holster day: A day when students who support gun law reform wear an empty holster on campus in protest of the current laws.

Conclusion

This document gave an insight into what it means to be a libertarian, showed you a general overview of the Young Americans for Liberty, and a taste of politics in a university setting. The step-by-step instructions above make it easy for anyone at Virginia Tech interested in becoming involved to easily do so. We hope you will take advantage of this info and join us at our next meeting!