Before you start holding meetings and ratifying your chapter’s constitution, you need to have a group of students ready to organize! Follow this guide to get a group together and get registered through your university.

1. Gauge interest at your university and start recruiting potential executive board members to start your chapter. Reach out to friends, social media followers, and politically-active members in your community to find fellow Democrats!

2. Begin tabling and talking in political science classes or majors of political interest to begin recruiting members. Generally, if there aren’t any politically active groups on campus, you can recruit quite a few people if you talk about issues students care about (college costs, social issues, etc.) Focus on tabling early in the semester and to incoming freshman and transfer students who are looking to get involved in order to attract the most potential members.

3. Once you have enough members, (this varies from school to school so check your campus’ student involvement website!) create a constitution and a purpose for why your organization exists. This will help to organize your chapter around common goals and create a foundation for future growth. If you need help with recruitment or creating a constitution, check out our website for other guides (collegedemsomo.org)

4. Attend a Student Organization Orientation meeting-- your university’s website should have several different opportunities throughout the semester.

5. Once your constitution and bylaws are approved by the university and you have attended a SOO meeting then you are ready to become a new chapter! Congrats!