



# Emerging Adult Ministry: Spheres of Engagement

Emerging adults (18-24) are often in need of a supportive UU community, but are less likely to be reached by our traditional congregations. Supporting emerging adults can take many forms and any congregation regardless of size or budget can participate in some way. Try starting with one sphere and once that is going well, consider expanding other spheres of engagement!

## 1. Supporting your bridgers

Stay in touch with the youth who grew up in your congregation and help them navigate the transition into young adulthood whether they stay in your area or move away.

## 3. Doing outreach at institutions

Reach out to local colleges and universities where you'll find many emerging adults. Military bases and training sites are also good sites for emerging adult outreach!

## 2. Receiving other bridgers

If your area is popular with emerging adults or has a campus or military base nearby, you may have UU bridgers coming your way. The UUA is working on revamping its Bridge Connections Program so stay tuned!

## 4. Doing community outreach

Make your congregation known in the wider community and engage emerging adults in congregational life or in other UU programming. This is part of a healthy young adult ministry.

For tips and ideas, see the back.



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## Tips and ideas for every sphere of engagement in emerging adult ministry

<p>1: <b><u>Support Your Bridgers</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Send care packages, birthday greetings, and cards for any significant events or losses to your bridgers</li><li>- Host a reunion for your Coming of Age classes or for your Youth Group alumni once they've bridged; try winter holidays or early summer</li><li>- Invite bridged young adults to participate in worship and church life if they live nearby or when they visit home if they live far away</li></ul>	<p>2: <b><u>Receive Other Bridgers</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- If you learn of a UU bridged young adult coming your way, reach out, offer a ride to worship or other church events, connect them with relevant groups like young adult or campus ministry, invite them for a meal</li><li>- The UUA is currently revamping our Bridge Connections Program to craft a more effective strategy for connecting bridgers. Stay on the look out for updated information!</li></ul>
<p>3: <b><u>Outreach to Institutions</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Colleges and universities have many emerging adult students, see <a href="http://www.uua.org/campusministry">www.uua.org/campusministry</a> to learn more about this specific ministry.</li><li>- Don't forget about community colleges, vocational training centers, prisons, and military training sites or bases. Many emerging adults are part of these institutions as well.</li><li>- Consider forming small group ministries that meet at or near these institutions. Military sites and prisons will have more restrictions on this type of outreach.</li></ul>	<p>4: <b><u>Community Outreach</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Brainstorm about ways to make congregational programming more accessible for emerging adults. Factors such as shift work, lack of a car and erratic schedules can make regular worship attendance difficult.</li><li>- Pay attention to where emerging adults gather in your community. Try putting publicity in these locations or hosting a program in one of these sites</li><li>- Emerging adults often need paid work; consider jobs like teaching RE that could be compensated and provide pathways into UU community</li></ul>