

# Incorporating Teen CERT on Campus

Natural and manmade disasters happen: It's not a matter of "if", but, *when*. Adopting Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) disaster-preparedness training on campus is rewarding and can be a very effective way to boost your school's disaster readiness. Here are some options for you to initiate:

1. **Start a campus Teen CERT Club**

Under the leadership of a CERT-trained adult, club members can be more self-directed in their training and activity options. A club naturally attracts like-minded individuals, making the campus team a tighter-knit group.

2. **Incorporate CERT training in regular block rotations**

Allowing students to use their classroom time for CERT training is a good option when more oversight and accountability are required, or for students who are on an Medical/Fire/Military track and need the credits.

3. **Incentivize independent CERT training**

Encouraging students to train on their own at home by offering an incentive can be a way to attract more students to the training.

4. **Adopt a CERT-trained staff standard**

This is probably the most important and effective way to harden your school's campus readiness plan. Show the students the value of cross-training outside of your interests in service to the community, hold them to a high standard, and they will rise to the occasion! Remember, "Leaders get there first."

## TIPS

- Make CERT training activities/hours count as Community Service
- Communicate regularly and often regarding the campus CERT options and the need for and benefits of disaster-preparedness training
- Demonstrate the value of CERT by becoming trained yourself

## MORE INFO

You can learn more about CERT and Teen CERT at: [fema.gov/cert](https://www.fema.gov/cert)