Donate Life Registry Drive Challenge!

In an effort to promote a culture of donation. Each Donate Life Club member is asked to talk their friends and families about signing up on the New York State Donor Registry. Each club member is challenged to get at least 5 donor registry cards filled out.

*****Please note, individuals who have already "Checked Yes" at the DMV can still fill out a donor registry card. *****

The most important thing is to have a conversation so you know your loved one's wishes.

Talking about Organ, Eye, & Tissue Donation

It can sometimes seem intimidating to ask people to register as donors. The truth is, most people support donation and just have not thought about registering, or haven't been given the opportunity. That's where you come in! Use these tips for ideas on how to start the conversation, overcome misconceptions, and answer common questions.

Starting the Conversation

Whether you're holding a registration table at a football game, community event or even in your school, it's important to engage your audience. This means standing in front of your table to engage people rather than waiting for them to come to you.

Open with an interesting fact.

"Hey, did you know that you can save eight lives by registering as a donor?"

Just ask!

"We're registering people as organ donors today! Have you registered yet? It only takes a minute."

Connect Life

Overcoming Misconceptions & Objections

There are some misconceptions out there regarding organ donation. That is why we need you to help us educate people about the real facts regarding organ donation. It is important to give people all the facts so they can make an informed decision. See below for some commonly asked questions and suggestions on how to respond.

"Doctors won't save my life if they know that I am an organ donor."

In an emergency, it's the entire medical team's first priority to save the life of their patient, and they will not check to see if you're an organ donor or not. Donation is not an option until after a patient has passed away from a traumatic brain injury, and their family has decided to remove them from the ventilator.

"You don't want my organs!"

Even if you drink or smoke, you could still be a donor! Let the doctors decide when the time comes.

"I have a medical condition, so I can't."

Anyone can register regardless of his or her medical history. A medical evaluation is done by professionals at the time of death to determine eligibility. If it's something you believe in, let the doctors make that decision when the time comes!

"I'm too old to donate."

There's no age limit on registering as a donor. One of out three donors is over the age of 50!

"I think I'm already registered."

Awesome! If you have your license on you I can double check. If you're not sure, you can always register again!

"It's against my religion."

All major religions support organ and tissue donation as a selfless gift, or they leave it up to the individual.

"I'm from another state/country."

If you live here for part of the year, it's a good idea to register here as well! Or, you can register on the national registry at RegisterMe.org

ConnectLife

"I need my organs!"

This is for organ donation after you pass away, so you won't need them then!

"I have to check with my parents." Or "My parents don't want me to."

Donation is a personal choice, but it is important to discuss it with your family and loved ones. Make sure that they know your wishes.

Is there a cost to the donor family?

There is no cost to the donor's family for organ, eye and tissue donation.

Will I be able to have an open casket funeral?

Yes, the donation process can allow for an open casket funeral if the donor/their family wishes. Donation won't impact any other funeral arrangements either.

Who will receive my donated organs and tissues?

Many factors go into the matching process, including medical urgency, blood type and geographical location of the donor and recipient, among other criteria.
Due to medical privacy laws, the identities of donors and recipients must be kept anonymous unless both parties agree to share that information.

Does the red donor heart have to be printed on my license?

No, you do not have to have it printed on your license to be registered. The registry is checked at the time of a person's passing regardless if it is printed on their license. The red donor heart on a person's license or ID card is simply a reminder for the individual, not for medical professionals.

Is this the same thing as when I registered to donate blood/bone marrow?

No, while those are also life-saving and healing gifts, organ donation is a different registry.

Where can I register as an organ, eye and tissue donor?

- **Here right now by filling out a registry card**
- **Start the process online at Connectlife.org/Register**
- **Sign up through the Department of Motor Vehicles**
- **Sign up on the back of the voter's registration form**

ConnectLife