



# ALLY WEEK STUDENT GUIDE

Here it is! Everything you need to know about [Ally Week](#). This guide will share resources, the history of Ally Week, and ideas to use in organizing your school's Ally Week! Also, [don't forget to register](#), first 2,000 registrants will receive Ally Week swag!

Launched in 2005, Ally Week is a student-powered campaign dedicated to focusing on LGBTQ students and out LGBTQ educators and the actions they need from their allies.

In this guide you will find:

- **#MyAllies Selfie Sign**
- **FAQ about Ally Week and GLSEN**
- **Ways to participate as an elementary or secondary educator**

Celebrating Ally Week at your school is a great way to start the year by showing solidarity with the LGBTQ community through positive messages that promote inclusion, affirmation, and love. The tools, resources, and messaging we provide can help any school celebrate visibility, affirmation, and support for their LGBTQ-headed families, students, and educators.



#MyAllies  
*amplify*  
MY VOICE.”

**Chris**  
2018-19 GLSEN's  
National Student Council

ALLY WEEK  
GLSEN

[glsen.org/allyweek](http://glsen.org/allyweek)

**DO YOU IDENTIFY AS LGBTQ OR HAVE STUDENTS WHO DO? JOIN THE CONVERSATION ABOUT WHAT YOU NEED FROM THEIR ALLIES BY FILLING OUT [THIS SELFIE SIGN](#) AND SHARING WITH #MYALLIES. YOU CAN ALSO SHARE HOW YOU, AS AN LGBTQ STUDENT, ARE IN SOLIDARITY WITH OTHER IDENTITIES AND WHAT SOLIDARITY MEANS TO YOU.**





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## ALLY WEEK FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is an Ally?

An ally is a person who takes demonstrable action supporting members of a marginalized group with which they do not identify. GLSEN's Ally Week focuses on allyship for LGBTQ youth, who face disproportionate bullying, harassment, and discrimination in K-12 schools. All students and staff can be allies to LGBTQ youth, and LGBTQ youth can be allies to one another, as well as to members of groups whose identities they do not share. For example, cisgender LGB students can always learn more about being allies to transgender or gender nonconforming students, and white LGBTQ students can always learn about being allies to LGBTQ students of color.



### What is Ally Week?

Ally Week is a school-centered GLSEN program to spark a national conversation about the meaning of allyship and to encourage schools to show solidarity with the LGBTQ community. Ally Week is for everyone. Straight and cisgender allies, as well as LGBTQ youth, are encouraged to learn about what actions they can take to support their LGBTQ-headed families, students, and educators. Educator allies can use Ally Week as an opportunity to teach lessons about compassion and diversity. And LGBTQ youth can learn about how to support one another's overlapping, intersecting identities.

### What Happens During Ally Week?

During Ally Week, students and educators organize activities at school that focus on encouraging and enhancing solidarity with the LGBTQ community, in their school and beyond. GLSEN recommends holding an Ally 101 workshop, which outlines the basics of being an ally to LGBTQ youth. In addition, GLSEN has provided a list of actions anyone can take to support LGBTQ youth, including LGBTQ youth of color, trans and gender nonconforming youth, and LGBTQ youth with different abilities.





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## Who started Ally Week?

In 2005, members of GLSEN's Jump-Start National Student Leadership Team came up with an idea to encourage allies committed to ensuring safe and affirming schools for all to take action to support LGBTQ students. The idea turned into the first Ally Week celebrated in schools nationwide in September.

## What is GLSEN?

GLSEN is the leading national education organization focused on ensuring safe schools for all students. Established nationally in 1990, GLSEN envisions a world in which every child learns to respect and accept all people, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

## Ally Week Actions for Educators

As a student, you have the ability to bring Ally Week activities and discussions to your school. Having knowledge of your school's policies and procedures, you can offer suggestions on how your school as a whole can develop effective Ally Week activities that bring LGBTQ visibility into your school in a positive way. If your school has a GSA (Gender and Sexuality Alliance) or other LGBTQ affirming clubs, you can work with your club to promote the awareness week and different activities throughout the week, before school or during lunch time. You can also work encourage other non LGBTQ focused clubs or classes like ASB to work in solidarity by lifting up the needs and voices of LGBTQ students.

1. **Identify identities you are in solidarity with:** Allyship is not a one way street and there are so many ways we can show up for each other. For example, our first day of Ally Week will focus on our solidarity with the Bisexual Community! [Check out our resources](#) on how to be an ally to bisexual folks. Here is a day by day list of different identities we will be sharing on our social media outlets about:

- **Bisexual focus day: Monday, September 23**

- [Bisexual Resources](#)

- **Voter Registration focus day: Tuesday, September 24**

- **Intersex focus day: Wednesday September 25**

- ["5 Steps to Being An Intersex Ally"](#)

- **QTPOC focus day: Thursday, September 26**

- [4 Ways You Can Support Black, Queer, Trans & GNC Educators Today](#)

- **Immigrant focus day: Friday, September 27**

- Blog: ["Together, Our Differences Make a Strong and Beautiful Community in School"](#)





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What are some other identities you could highlight during Ally Week?

2. **Connect with GLSEN and your GSA:** To help plan your week, connect with other students in your school's GSA who are planning Ally Week at your school. You can [register your GSA](#) and get free Ally Week swag and discover more resources and ideas through our emails and website. Connect with GLSEN as well on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and follow #AllyWeek. If you are LGBTQ-identified, join the conversation and share what you need from your allies with #MyAllies.
3. **Share Ally Week with Educators and Administrators:** Ally Week is most effective as a school-wide initiative to begin the year with LGBTQ visibility and affirmation. As a student, you have the unique opportunity to engage with other school staff and administrators. You can share our online materials with your teachers like the Educators' Guide to Ally Week, information about GLSEN's Safe Space Kit and discuss with them the need for LGBTQ allies in the school. Use the "Engage School Staff" section of the [Safe Space Kit](#) for more details on staff presentations. Arrange for a screening of one of our free-streaming films and a discussion to begin the year with LGBTQ students, families and educators in mind. You can also send a letter to your principal and administration letting them know you will be participating in Ally Week.
4. **Join the online conversation:** LGBTQ students, what do you need from your allies? [Share on social media](#) using #MyAllies, and snap a selfie with our [#MyAllies sign!](#)
5. **Allyship in Action workshop:** Facilitating an Allyship in Action training is a great way to encourage people to take action and make schools safer for LGBTQ students. Use this guide to help you facilitate your own training to engage participants in activities that will get them thinking critically about further actions they can take as allies.  
[You can download our workshop resource here.](#)

■ **For a discussion group check out these questions::**

- What do the letters LGBTQ stand for and who do we know that is in this community? (school, community, or media)
- Where do you see LGBTQ people in the media? Are these portrayals positive, neutral, or negative?
- How affirming do you think our school is for LGBTQ students? How do you know?
- Why do you think it's important to be an ally to LGBTQ students?
- If you're LGBTQ-identified, what do you need from your allies?
- What are some actions people can take to be an ally in our school?

**LOOKING FOR MORE SUPPORT? EMAIL US AT [STUDENTS@GLSEN.ORG](mailto:STUDENTS@GLSEN.ORG) FOR QUESTIONS OR IF YOU WANT TO SHARE SOME IDEAS FOR ALLY WEEK!**

