

Countdown to the Day of Silence

Use this timeline to help structure your organizing each week leading up to the Day of Silence. We recommend you start preparing for your Day of Silence activities at least six weeks in advance so that you have plenty of time to plan.

WEEK 6: Getting started

It's time to get planning for the Day of Silence! This week, focus on laying the groundwork for your organizing. Register with GLSEN by visiting dayofsilence.org, gather any resources you need, find a supportive staff member who agrees to support you throughout the process, and locate other students who will participate, such as GSA members.

WEEK 5: Hold your first meeting

It's time to get the ball rolling! Plan a meeting with your Day of Silence team. This could be your GSA or similar student club, or a group of interested students and your sponsoring faculty member. Before your meeting, make sure to set an agenda. While you are together, use the time to brainstorm, set goals, determine what activities you will lead as part of the Day of Silence, delegate tasks, and schedule your next meeting. Once you have a plan, let your school administration know that students will be participating in the Day of Silence and ask them for permission for any activities taking place at school.

WEEK 4: Spread the word

You're only one month away from Day of Silence! Now that you know what your event is going to look like and you have hopefully secured permission, it's time to let everyone know. Split up outreach tasks among your team members so that you can each contribute to getting the word out. Make posters, notify local and school press, create a social media presence for the event, and fundraise for any supplies you may need. Don't forget to check in regularly with your Day of Silence team to see if you can support them in their tasks. If you encountered resistance from your school officials, continue the conversation with them about how students can participate.

WEEK 3: Grow your support

The more support you have, the more effective your event can be. Continue talking with teachers, students and community members about ways they can support your Day of Silence activities. Educate members of your school community about the meaning of Day of Silence, and schedule a meeting for students who want to participate. Consider contacting local LGBT activists or public officials who may be willing to make a supportive statement about the Day of Silence. If you are hosting any events, such as a Breaking the Silence rally or a Day of Silence safe space, make sure you are going through the proper channels to reserve rooms and materials. If you will be purchasing t-shirts from GLSEN, do so now so that they arrive in time for the Day of Silence.

WEEK 2: Build up momentum

Day of Silence is almost here! It's time to pump up the excitement and to make sure everyone is prepared. This is the time to notify all school staff members about the event; tell participants to inform their teachers that they will be participating and discuss whether it is possible for them to be silent in class that day. If you're making lots of t-shirts for your group, do so now.

WEEK 1: Here at last!

You've been planning for weeks, and the Day of Silence is almost here! Review your legal rights as a student participant and make sure everyone knows the limits of what they can and cannot do on the Day of Silence. Distribute t-shirts. Ask permission to make an announcement on the PA system or in classes in the days leading up to the Day of Silence. On the Day of Silence, take your vow of silence and carry out your activities with pride!