

Tabling and Crowd Canvassing for Planned Parenthood

Planned Parenthood needs advocates like you to do outreach in your local community by tabling or crowd canvassing at community events like fairs, festivals, concerts or parades!

Materials

- Download REAL Sex Ed Saves Lives postcards and fact sheets from our website www.ppav.org. Get 1-2 clipboards and some pens.
- If you can find out what the local sex ed policy is, fill that in on the fact sheet before going out.
- You can get other materials from Planned Parenthood like a t-shirt to identify yourself, freebies to give away (pens, buttons, bumper stickers, etc) and other information materials. These are especially important if you are setting up a table but not essential if you are just crowd canvassing. Contact us at ppav@ppfa.org.

Tips for Tabling and Crowd Canvassing

- Make eye contact, smile and introduce yourself. Be friendly and upbeat.
- Draw people in: get in front to engage people who walk by the table - don't just sit behind the table.
- Approach groups to sign up more than one person at a time. If there are three people hanging out together at an event, hand them each a clipboard and give your pitch to all three at once.

Practice your pitch

- Work on a "hook" to draw people in and practice it with a friend. Example: "Will you sign a postcard to let your legislators know that you support real sex ed that is medically-accurate and includes information on abstinence, contraception and condom use?"
- Familiarize yourself with some talking points from our fact sheet to convince people or educate them as they are signing a postcard. Example: "Did you know that over \$1 billion has been spent on abstinence-only programs that are ineffective and dangerous? These are our tax dollars!"
- Recruit people to PPAN - the Planned Parenthood Action Network - by asking people to leave their email addresses on the postcards. Here are a few things to tell people about PPAN:
 - PPAN is a great way to stay updated and take action!
 - Planned Parenthood does not share your email with any other organization.
 - There is an unsubscribe link at the bottom of every email.

Dealing with opposition

- Find commonality - these issues are complex, but sometimes we may agree with someone who is anti-abortion on the need for contraception and education. That is the majority of what Planned Parenthood does!
- Be polite: no debates or arguments. There are plenty of pro-choice people out there to talk to. Attempting to persuade opposition is not worth our time.
- Disengage politely but FIRMLY to avoid conflict with anti-choice or hostile people. Example: "Thanks for your point of view, have a good day." Turn to greet another person.

REMEMBER

- You don't have to know everything to volunteer for Planned Parenthood. If someone asks a question you don't know the answer, ask him/her to contact Planned Parenthood directly.
- Have fun! You are volunteering for an organization you care about and we appreciate it! Other pro-choice people will appreciate your contributions too.

Let us know where you are going and what you are doing! We can send you materials, practice a pitch with you and connect you with other local volunteers: ppav@ppfa.org.