

School: 95 Ideas for Your Student Group

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#1: Start a Safe Zone Program

Encourage teachers and administrators at your school to display safe zone stickers or posters in their offices or classrooms. Displaying the safe zone sign means that you're a safe person to talk to about sexual orientation issues. You can design your own safe zone stickers or you can order them from the [National Youth Advocacy Coalition \(NYAC\)](#).

#2: Try a Talking Circle

From the [Gay And Lesbian Alliance, University of New Brunswick & St. Thomas University](#) "GALA invited a gay member of the area's considerable native community to conduct a talking circle discussion on coming out. For two years it's been our most successful meeting of each year. Just make sure to discuss the ceremony with the person you ask to run it, first, make sure any breaks are negotiated in advance and that it's explained well at the start, breaking the traditions can be offensive to the person officiating the circle. When all goes well though it can be a pretty moving way to conduct a discussion group."
Ken

#3: Outreach to the First Year Students!

High school and college first years who are queer or questioning need to know you're out there! Flyer and chalk first year dorms with information about your meetings, and ask sympathetic teachers to announce your meetings in their classrooms. You may even want to do a mailing to first year students in the orientation packet or to their mailboxes, if you have the budget. Once they arrive at the meetings, make sure they are supported: develop a "buddy" system for older students to orient younger ones to the meetings and events going on in your group.

#4: Start a Condom Availability Program

The research is in. Condom availability programs do not increase sexual activity among students; but they do reduce the spread of HIV. Check out Advocates for Youth's [fact sheet](#) on school condom availability and advocate for a program in your school!

#5: Rock the Vote (www.rockthevote.org) It's the presidential election year, which makes it more crucial than ever to vote. Did you know that only 74% of the voting age population were registered in 1996? Of those only 49% actually voted ([FEC](#)). Your vote is your voice when it comes to public policy. Make sure everyone in your group is registered. Download the form from the [Federal Election Commission Web Page](#) or request copies from your state election committee.

#6: Volunteer at Your Local AIDS Service Organization

Organize a group of students to do community service at your local AIDS service organization. You could volunteer at an AIDS hospice, help with a needle exchange program, or help raise funds for local groups.

#7: Start a Newsletter

This is a great way to get members who rarely show up to realize all the good stuff they're missing. And if there isn't enough good stuff, then this forces you to realize that there's nothing to write about! This can also serve as a great way to keep a history of what's gone on in your organization.

#8: Celebrate National Coming Out Day

National Coming Out Day is celebrated every year on October 11th. It serves as a reminder that glbt visibility is an important step on the road to equality. For NCOD resources, contact the [Human Rights Campaign's](#) (HRC's) National Coming Out Project. Be creative this year. NCOD festivities at the University of Arizona included a campus drag show and onsite HIV testing in the student center.

#9: Cash In With a Campus Drag Pageant

From [OUT](#), Indiana University Miss Gay IU Drag Pageant: "Over 1,000 people showed up for the 4 hour event and all had a great time. GLBT and straight allies were all together having a great time. Former Miss Gay Indianas were MC's for the event. This is the annual fundraiser for OUT. Plan early. Ask for help from other student groups and local businesses. You never know where you can find an ally!"

Urzula

#10: Observe National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month

Lesbian, gay, bi, & trans youth often have to deal with a lot of negative messages from society. As a result, LGBT youth are more likely to abuse alcohol and drugs. National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month is observed in September. You can get information [here](#).

#11: Let's Talk About Sex!

Ask a local AIDS service organization to present a workshop on safer sex to your campus or high school group. The had Desire, a local HIV/AIDS program, present a workshop on safer sex for men and women, and the turnout was greater than in many meetings before or after!

#12: Let's Talk About Dating!

Dating isn't just about sex... it is about communication, sharing emotions, sharing activities, and sharing feelings. And sex too... should you have it? When? How soon is too soon? How do you talk about protecting yourself? Have a discussion group to talk about all the stuff that comes along with dating people.

#13: Day of Silence

On the Day of Silence, students from across the country take a vow of silence to call attention to the silence placed on gay, lesbian, bisexual, & transgender youth.

#14: Trans Talk

From [Shady Side Academy Gender Issues Forum](#)

"We brought in my friend, Billy, a senior at the art high school in our city and a professional drag king, to talk about transgender issues and the whole idea behind gender. It was our highest attended meeting ever, and made people a lot more curious and less prejudiced/ignorant about transgender people and gender stereotypes."

Straussey

#15: National HIV Testing Day

Every year the National Association of People with AIDS sponsors National HIV Testing Day in June. The idea is to encourage people who are at risk to take the test. For more information and Testing Day resources, contact [The National Association of People with AIDS](#).

#16 What is ... Gay Jeopardy?

From [Sexual Minority Student Alliance](#), Virginia Commonwealth University "Our most fun activity involved our take on game shows--gay Jeopardy, gay Win, Lose, or Draw, gay charades, gay dating game. The games would focus on gay answers, gay things to draw, or gay things to act out... The game show meetings drew a lot of people because everyone got to participate and laugh at one another in the name of fun. Planning would be needed to: (1) come up with the answers, things to draw, and things to act out... (2) choose host/hostess/Alex/Pat/Vanna/whatever (3) gather materials needed, like chalk board etc."

#17: Bring the AIDS Quilt to Your School

The [National Youth Education Program](#) brings sections of the AIDS Memorial Quilt to schools across the country, free of charge. Each two to five-day Quilt display allows students and teachers to discuss AIDS in a way the community, parents, students and teachers decide. The Quilt is a powerful centerpiece for a school's AIDS awareness and prevention activities. You can get an application [here](#).

#18 Get Proud

Attend a local pride event as a group - march in the Pride Parade under your school's banner. Some areas, like Washington, DC, have a [Youth Pride Day](#). If you live near a Youth Pride Day you should get your group involved with organizing the Pride.

#19 Invite Student Leaders to your Meetings

The President of the senior class is here to serve all the senior class, right? Invite her or him to your meeting so LGBT folks can tell them what their concerns are one-on-one. And while you're at it, encourage someone in your group to run for class or school office. It helps to have someone in charge that supports your issues.

#20 Campus Gay Games

From [Lambda Student Alliance, Penn State University](#)

"We planned our first annual Gay Games. We have a lot of different groups that rarely have to get together on activates, so we made a campus wide group of the Lambda Student alliance, ALLIES, Delta Lambda Phi (the gay frat) and Lambda Delta Lambda (the lesbian sorority) and had a gay Olympics. The events were fun, like balloon tosses, wheelbarrow races, and Frisbee football, so everyone had a great time. And, after the events we had a big potluck picnic to get together and socialize. The best part about it was that originally we had planned to have each group compete against the others, but instead we randomly picked teams so people in difference groups got to meet and socialize with other people in other groups that they may never get a chance to see. It was a great time to bring the community together. And to start it off, we all joined to gather to sing the gay "anthem" -- I Will Survive! This is a great activity if you have more than one group on campus that doesn't always get together or have more than one school in the area and bring groups together."

Steve

#21 World AIDS Day

From [University of South Alabama Alliance for Sexual Diversity](#)

"The activity that stands out the most this year would be our World AIDS Day commemoration. We got other groups involved in planning and the event. We had an information table at the campus that day, and a candle light vigil that night with a band that played before and after. Also, we wrote statistics, personal names, and others that have died from the virus all over the campus in chalk, and made a huge quilt out of chalk in our amphitheater floor."

Sean

World AIDS Day is honored around the world on December 1st. Many communities plan events like non-denominational worship services and candlelight vigils. Get involved in an event happening in your community or plan an event for your school. For more information, contact the [CDC National Prevention Information Network](#), or your local AIDS service organization.

#22 Gay Jeans Day

Gay Jeans Day is an event mostly done at colleges and universities as part of National Coming Out Week. On a specified day, everyone at the school is asked to wear jeans to show they support the right of lesbian, gay and bisexual people to exist on the campus and as part of a greater community. This used to be a more popular event but seems to have fizzled out. You can check out the [Gay Jeans Day](#) for more info. (Warning: it hasn't been updated in a long time.)

#23 National AIDS Vaccine Awareness Day

On May 18, 1997, President Bill Clinton challenged the United States and the world to create a vaccine to stop the spread of AIDS in ten years. The AIDS community remembers this anniversary to remind everyone of the need to have an AIDS Vaccine. For more information, contact the [International AIDS Vaccine Initiative](#).

#24 Entertain Your Campus

From [BGALA](#), University of Memphis

"I think what turned out to be the best thing we did was to bring Jamie Anderson, a lesbian singer and comedian, to campus for a concert. We got a fairly good response from the community, and it allowed us to be more visible. It took a great deal of work and attention to details, but went off without a hitch. I think my biggest piece of advice to someone planning an event like this is to plan far in advance, because everything that can go wrong or change will, and you don't want to be trying to fix everything at the last minute. Also, I learned not to depend on everyone who initially expresses interest in helping organize it; the group who actually did the work was much smaller than the group who said they would."

Katie

#25 Become a Peer Educator!

Peer Educators get trained to give workshops & presentations, and educate fellow students about sexual health issues. There may already be a peer education program in your school or community you can join.

#26 Write Your Members of Congress

Your members of Congress need to hear from you (and hear from you often) about the issues that matter most to you. If you're not sure who represents you in congress, then find out right now using [HRC's](#) Action Center.

#27 Raise Money for a Local Charity

From [SOUL](#) (Sexual Orientations United For Liberation) of SUNY Brockport "We held a drag show, having the drag queens from Club Marchellas in Rochester perform. We had a great time raising money for HPA (Helping People with AIDS) of Rochester. Everyone had a great time and had fun watching the drag queens perform." Janice & Kevin

#28 Support Take Back the Night

Recognize the abuse and sexual assaults that affect many of our friends and partners. Take Back the Night happens nationwide in the spring to bring light to the very real problem of sexual violence. The organizers put hours upon hours of work into this event and could use

your help. This is a great place to give your group a voice in campus activities because many in the LGBT community are survivors of sexual assault and intimate partner violence.

#29 Homohops From LGBTOUT, University of Toronto

"We did a number of successful things- but by far the most successful are our homohops - all ages queer parties organized by & for youth. Most of our advertising (leaflets, email & speaking at group meetings & irc/icq chat) is directed at youth." Bonte

#30 Include LGBT in Multiculturalism

Many campuses have multicultural programs and clubs. Make sure your group is recognized in these events. Some schools ask these groups to be present when prospective students are touring or having their orientation. Many queer first-year students would love to see a place they can go to on campus.

#31 Check Out Your School Library

Find out what books in your library address gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender issues. If your library doesn't have many books on these issues have members of your group identify favorite books and set up a meeting with your school librarian to suggest these titles. Make sure your school library subscribes to The Harvard Gay and Lesbian Review, and other magazines you're interested in.

#32 Celebrate Black History Month

Find out what events are being planned at your school for Black History Month. Perhaps you can work together with an African American Student group to highlight the accomplishments of African Americans who are SGL or LGBT. For a great list of OUT gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender people of African descent, visit [The Blacklist](#).

#33 Advocate for a Student Center!

Many colleges and universities have LGBT resource centers, ranging from a bookshelf to a fully staffed and funded center with programs and meetings. Advocate for one in on your campus by researching other cultural centers in your colleges and checking out [The National Consortium of Directors of Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Resources in Higher Education](#).

#34 Attend School Board Meetings

Yes, this is an activity for high school groups and college groups. School board meetings are open to the public. Plan an outing to a school board meeting in your area. If your school board has a youth representative, consider nominating someone for your group for this position. If they don't have a vehicle for youth-involvement, consider having someone (over age 18) from your GSA run for a school board seat.

#35 Talk about Body Image

Low self esteem and eating disorders are an issue among queer youth. Have a meeting that examines images of gay men and lesbians in the media, queer publications, and queer culture. What do the people portrayed in these journals look like? What race are they? What kind of shape are they in? And how does it affect how we see ourselves? Talk about it.

#36 Go to A College Conference From [PRIDE](#), University of Illinois at Chicago

"We attended two conferences, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force [Creating Change](#) Conference in Philly and the MGLBTCC 99 in Madison, WI. They were great fun because we got to learn a lot about each other, party and learn a lot of great stuff from the conference seminars. Advice to others: PLAN PLAN PLAN and fundraise, that costs mega bucks." Jason

#37 Check out The National Youth Advocacy Coalition's Conferences

[NYAC](#) has several outstanding regional conferences and one national summit that youth activists, including many young people in high school, attend. Be sure to check out their web page for information.

#38 Examine Your School's Policies

Does your school have policies to protect students from harassment and discrimination? Does your school protect LGBT teachers from discrimination? Find out what policies your school has on the books and see if you can make them better. If your school doesn't have a discrimination policy, go to [HRC's Worknet](#) to find out more information about how to add it to your school's equal opportunity policy and to see what other schools already include it.

#39 Celebrate Condom Week

Condom Week was begun in 1978 by students at the University of California-Berkeley. It is held every year from February 14th to the 21st. For more information contact Planned Parenthood's Office of Special Projects at 212-261-4618.

#40 Host an Online Chat

Many people on campuses and high schools might be afraid to actually take that physical step of coming to a Gay Straight Alliance or LGBT campus meeting - hosting a chat on your university's server or on IRC might be great first step. Or, if you want to connect with young people all over the world, consider entering a chat in one of Youth Resource's clubs.

#41 Safer Sex Info

From [GW Pride](#), George Washington University "We assembled safer sex packets (condoms, dental dams, female condoms, safer sex materials...). Most of these materials we got donated from local organizations. We did this part during one of our evening meetings and served pizza. The members loved it because it was a social activity as well as educational. The next day we went to a local High School and made packets available as schools let out... we found that although many of the students had learned how to use safer sex materials none of them were using them yet they were still having sex... it gave us an opportunity to go out into the community and become active! This program turned out to be very rewarding for many of our members, as it seemed to have an aspect that satisfied everyone!" Joshua

#42 Hold a Forum on Faith

Many LGBT youth have very real concerns and questions about reconciling their faith with their homosexuality. Hold a forum that invites leaders of various community faith groups to talk about their faith's position on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues. The conversation that is sparked is invaluable for everyone!

#43 Get Cyber-Active

We all know how valuable it is for queer youth to have access to the Internet. But can students access this website from your school's computer lab or school library? Many schools are using filtering software which blocks access to certain sites. Find out if your school censors the net, and which sites they are blocking. Make sure your school administrator or librarian understands the importance of having access to websites like YouthResource.

#44 Let's Talk Month

[Let's Talk Month](#) is an annual initiative to encourage parents and youth to talk openly and honestly about sexual health. Students and schools can plan programs and activities which encourage parent/child communication about sexuality. The Let's Talk Month guidebook, which is full of ideas & activities, is available from [Advocates for Youth](#).

#45 Take a Poll of Health Care Providers and Educators

Some physical and mental health professionals are better than others at dealing with issues related to being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, especially when it comes to free university health care. Take a poll among your members about who's great and who to avoid, and pass it out to new people who come to meetings as a resource list.

#46 Start a Resource Page

Don't stop with just health care professionals. Also make a list of LGBT-friendly stores, clubs, coffeehouses, classes, and organizations in your community. Check out the University of Virginia's [LGBTU](#) online helpline website for ideas.

#47 Gay & Lesbian History Month

October is Gay & Lesbian History Month. It's the perfect time to learn more about the history of the gbt movement in your community. For ideas on what you can do for history month, contact [GLAAD](#). GLAAD also sponsors an essay writing contest you can participate in.

#48 Work in Coalition From [PRIDE](#) Georgetown University

"Last semester, in response to a spate of bias crimes against Gay, Jewish and African-American students, Pride joined Georgetown NAACP, the Black Students Alliance, the Jewish Student's Association, MEChA (Hispanic Student's organization,) and others to form a united umbrella organization to raise awareness about hate crimes, and to press the university to strengthen its anti-bias policies. As well as the practical result of a change in university policy, both at the level of the student code of conduct and in the university's policy of interaction between campus police and District of Columbia police, the Georgetown Unity Coalition also had a positive effect on the school's climate. To my knowledge, this is the first time a semi-permanent umbrella organization has ever brought together so diverse a group of minority interests on our campus, and certainly the first time Georgetown Pride has had a hand in changing university policy. Arguably this is most remarkable in light of the school's Catholic identity."

Simon

#49 Out in the Workplace

Have a group discussion about being 'out' in the workplace. Invite your guidance counselor or career services professional as well as openly gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender professionals in your community. Discuss the pros and cons of putting your queer activities and internship experiences on your resume.

#50 Host an HIV Positive Panel

Many AIDS service organizations will have a speakers bureau of HIV positive people willing to talk to high schools and colleges about living with HIV. Invite one of these groups to speak to your high school and college.

#51 Join a Listserv

Get active online by subscribing to a listserv! You can check out some good ones on our site [here](#)

#52 Queer Bowling!

Get out and have fun for a little while! Take a field trip to a bowling alley (or a skating rink, or a miniature golf place...) and get down with your queer selves. It can be a great group bonding activity and you get to know a lot about people over fried cheese sticks and bowling balls.

#53 Develop an LGBT Studies Program

If you're one of the lucky ones who already have such a program, great! If you're not, feel out progressive professors for possibilities of starting one. In the more conservative schools, try to get LGBT Studies added as a concentration in the more supportive majors.

#54 Organize a Hate Crimes Awareness Vigil

From [Rochester Institute of Technology Gay Alliance](#)

"We held a candle light vigil in remembrance of Mathew Shepard in our student union during the fall and invited several people to come and speak at the vigil about violence against gay and lesbian people. Many students and faculty, both straight and gay, showed up in support of the vigil.

We asked the director of the women's center here on campus who also happens to be lesbian to speak. She did an excellent job and I don't think anyone walked away without a sense of pride. Her message was very plain and simple: "we will not capitulate to violence and fear, and hatred and violence can only be eliminated by joining our voices in unity."

Brad

#55 Ropes Course

Many colleges and communities host an outdoor ropes course that can be a great team building activity. Take the leadership (or your entire) GSA or LGBT alliance on a field trip to a ropes course so you can get to know how you can work together better.

#56 Dragapalooza From [GLBCA](#), Knox College

"We coordinated a Drag Show for one of our celebrations. We thought we'd have such a hard time but EVERYONE at the College was a huge help and the event was a great success! We actually had people lined up and it was standing room only! We had lights, a great sound system, and professional drag queens. It was fab. Our school has approximately 1200 students, so it's not a huge university. We were pleasantly surprised at the turn out. If anyone would like information or tips on how to plan for such event feel free to contact us through our website."

Jennifer

#57 Women's History Month

Women's history month is in March, and the perfect time to celebrate the historic connections between the women's movement and the lgbt movement. Maybe you can team up with your campus women's group to plan an event which recognizes the accomplishments of lesbian and bisexual women.

#58 Work with A Community Youth Group

Team up with a youth group in your area to put on a dance or a panel. This will expand your outreach and get you plugged into some great resources and networks. Check out our list of youth groups under "support".

#59 Join an AIDS Advocacy Organization

Join a national AIDS advocacy organization. You can help students in your GSA keep up to date on important AIDS policy issues, and make your voice heard at the federal level. Some national groups include: [AIDS Action](#), and [AIDS Policy Center for Children Youth & Families](#).

#60 Link with Other School's LGBT Organizations

From Georgetown [PRIDE](#), Georgetown University

"We had a party to which we invited several other collegiate LGBT organizations. Attendance was estimated at over 300, and this was a great social experience, as well as a chance for us to meet people from other schools and strengthen ties between our organizations. We also attended the Equality Begins at Home events with students from George Washington University, and this experience also gave us a chance to strengthen the collegiate LGBT community in DC. My advice to other organizations looking to plan such events is to plan early and advertise well."

Frank

#61 Mentor Future Leaders

High school and college groups cycle around as leaders come and go. Ensure that your group has continuity by mentoring younger students to take on leadership roles as they go up through the ranks. Keep them in the loop and give them smaller roles at first, working them up to the big election for President.

#62 Start an HIV Positive Rap Group

Poz Youth have lots of stuff to talk about - and it might be great to form a discussion and social group just for HIV positive youth in your community. Check out [YouthHIV](#) for inspiration.

#63 Safe Schools Week

National Safe Schools Week is sponsored by the [National School Safety Center](#) and will be held October 18-24th. Find out what events are being held in your community and encourage organizers to be inclusive of gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender youth issues.

#64 Make a ZINE

From Eagles Center, Central High School, LA Unified School District "One of the best activities that a student youth group ever did with me was a yearbook called EAGLES Zine. This was during my stint as volunteer at EAGLES Center, the original gay/lesbian dropout program sponsored by Los Angeles Unified School District. (There are now four such programs in LAUSD).

The idea of the yearbook was that these students, by dropping out, had missed out on the yearbook in their home schools. Or they felt they couldn't be out and themselves in their home-school yearbook. There's an emotional thing around the yearbook, same as the prom. Ours was an inexpensive but artistic desk-top production job, with the entire class (42 students) participating. They learned, basically, how to design and publish a book. Each student could design their own personal page, write something for it, choose graphics for it...and do a photograph of themselves. Students did all the photography. Those who weren't computer-literate (this included most of them, actually) got to learn how to operate the school's little Mac computer, create files, use the graphics program, etc." Patricia Nell Warren Member, Human Relations Education Commission, LAUSD Formerly member, Gay and Lesbian Education Commission, LAUSD

#65 Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month

September is National Hispanic Heritage Month. Plan an event with your school latino/latina group. Visit [Ambiente Joven](#) to get you started.

#66 Meet with LGBT Faculty/Staff

James Madison University's Harmony has held a couple of Coming Out for Faculty/Staff events where queer students and faculty can meet up. Granted, there are a lot of closeted faculty members who won't show up, but those you do meet there can be very good campus connections.

#67 Get Connected with Other Student Groups Online

Join a webring for gay straight alliances or campus groups, and be sure to list your campus group or GSA with YouthResource in our [Community](#) page.

#68 Have a "Family" Picnic

This is a great opportunity for you to bring a large group of folks together in a nonparty atmosphere, which can be a lot to organize and can also scare some of shyer students. Most campuses have parks around them for which you can reserve space. You can do a lot of activities there too - from talking to playing volleyball.

#69 National Youth Service Day

National Youth Service Day is sponsored by [Youth Service America](#) and will be held October 18-24th. Find out what events are being held in your community and encourage organizers to be inclusive of gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender youth issues.

#70 Host a Diversity Panel Discussion About the Campus Environment

This is a great way to discuss the environment of your campus as it relates to diversity issues in a way that can actually result in more than angering you. Make sure you invite many other groups to participate and try to address a wide-range of positive and negative topics. If your school is wonderful, let everyone know how great of a job it does. But, more often than not, there's something that can be done to improve conditions. Brainstorm and publicize the event so folks can do something about what's going on.

#71 Great American Smokeout: Quit Smoking!

November 18th is the annual Great American Smokeout! Form a team of folks from your group who want to quit smoking together.

#72 Make Teen Pregnancy a Queer Youth Issue

A study recently published in "Family Planning Perspectives" indicates that young lesbian, bisexual, and questioning women are at higher risk for teen pregnancy as well as physical and sexual abuse. May is National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month. It's the perfect time to talk about pregnancy prevention and the realities of young queer women's lives.

#73 Focus Globally

Check out what's being done about HIV/AIDS on a global scale on our [YouthShakers](#) website.

#74 Join HRC Action Network

Go to [HRC](#)'s website to sign up for Action Alerts. These keep you up to date about what's going on in your voting area and nationwide. They also let you send faxes and e-mails to your representatives on Capitol Hill telling them what you think about legislation they're supporting or fighting against.

#75 Elect a Historian

It's amazing how much happens in a semester much less a year. There have been campus groups around for decades that have no histories. Start one at your school. If anything,

make sure you put inside information about how you organized certain events. When you leave, this helps new activists/members figure out the ropes much smoother.

#76 Celebrate National Asian Pacific American Heritage

May is National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Plan an event with your school Asian and Pacific Islander American student group. Visit the YR page for <http://www.youthresource.com/community/yoc/api.cfm> API GLBTQ Youth to get you started.

#77 Join Advocates for Youth's Alert Network

To stay on top of federal and state issues that affect GLBT Youth as well as adolescent sexual and reproductive health, you can subscribe to the [Advocates Alert Network](#). Click here to find out how.

#78 Mentor Another Student Group

Perhaps there is a student group at a local high school or college which is has not quite reached your level of fabulousness? Offer to work with another group to help get them started. If they're interested, you can have some joint meetings, or attend conferences together. You can help connect them to resources in the community. Most importantly, you can ask them what they would like from you and try and meet that need.

#79 Work with Local Groups

Many areas have local PFLAG's (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) and community LGBT groups. To help your campus group branch out to the surrounding community, offer to co-host a community event.

#80 Check Out Local PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)

If your community doesn't have one, try to set one up with a supportive parent in the community. Go to www.pflag.org for more information. PFLAG parents are often willing to help campus LGBT groups with events and tabling. It could be a very beneficial connection for both your group and PFLAG's.

#81 Host an Activist

Bringing an inspirational speaker to your campus can motivate activism on your campus for months to come. The University of Virginia brought Urvashi Vaid from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force to speak to their organization around the Day of Silence Project, and the turnout was incredible and inspired many newspaper articles and dialogues about queer activism.

#82 Gay Bingo

Hold a gay bingo night - have a drag queen announce the numbers and maybe raise a little money for your campus group while you're having a great time!

#83 Host an LGBT Art Exhibit

James Madison University in Virginia had an exhibit a few years ago to expose rape and sexual assault experiences on campus. This would be an excellent idea for raising visibility about any issue, especially problems, experiences and memorable events for queer students and community members.

#84 Form an LGBT Book Club

Form a book club in your campus LGBT group. If this doesn't appeal to students, which could happen because books can be too costly for many, then suggest a book swap. This is a great way to start off a semester - just be open to diverse book ideas!

#85 Increase Number of LGBT Classes

Some of you may have no LGBT classes on campus and some may have only a few. If you know any department heads or professors who can help your cause this could really help. Look for options during the summer sessions during which many colleges allow classes not listed in the program book to be taught.

#86 Start a Panel Discussion Program

Harmony

"James Madison University's queer group, Harmony, has done panels in classrooms and dorms for several years now. This has been a great activity for us. Not only does it help LGBT students to talk more openly about sometimes difficult things to large groups, but it also has huge potential for opening a lot of minds for fellow peers attending the discussion."
Jennie

#87 Volunteer for YouthResource

We need you to tell your story! Get involved with YR - click [here](#) to find out how.

#88 Find Out About ROTC and Don't Ask, Don't Tell

Many campuses already include sexual orientation in their nondiscrimination policies. Sometimes, though, the ROTC's on campus go by their own rules. Campuses have differed on how to deal with this problem. Check out what your campus's solution is and let them know how you feel.

#89 Host a Queer Coffeehouse Night

How many lesbians with guitars do you have in your community? Get 'em all together for a coffeehouse night with music and poetry and dance. Feature the local talents of all those LGBT community members!

#90 Make T-Shirts

You can do this either low budget or high budget. If your group has a lot of cash and feels comfortable spending a good deal on shirts, hold a design contest among your members. If you are on the low end of the budget, which many groups are, get students to bring in their own shirts and you can by fuzzy paints, fabric markers and iron on letters. Be prepared for a mess though.

#91 Blitz the Campus with Awareness

A good way to raise awareness about a certain issue is to do a blitz on campus. This can go from posting hundreds of names of hate crimes victims campus wide on eye catching paper to handing out information directly. Make sure to pick an issue that connects with students and that may serve to better your group's visibility on campus.

#92 Hit the Chalk Boards

A great way to get out information on when and where your group meets and what queer related stuff is going on is to go into classrooms before the morning round starts and write down information the chalk boards. Sure, some professors may erase it first thing, but most students who see it will remember at least a web site or phone number.

#93 Write a Letter to the Editor

Write your student paper about things going on affecting the LGBT community on campus. Most newspapers follow the whims of their writers and editors, so connecting with someone on staff could prove very beneficial.

#94 Build A Web Page for your Group

Make sure you get the word out and keep people posted about current events for prospective students, the local community, and current members of your organization by building a web page for your group! Check out your campus server for details.

#95 Let us know what happens!

Share your successes and failures with us here at YR. You can post your experiences on the message boards or send [Jessie](#) an e-mail if you have something you'd like to have added to the list.