

Meeting 9 ...

Advocacy in the Community

Goals: To learn about and initiate community LGBTQ+ advocacy.

Icebreaker: Each member writes about at least one advocacy event in the community they are aware of.

Note: Some may not know any, depending on their family situation; that is okay, team them with someone who does know of some).

Suggested Activities

- Discuss the advocacy events described. What are the events and how do they promote advocacy?
- Discuss whether club members would be interested in taking part in any of the discussed events/activities.
- If there is interest, choose an event/activity and begin to make a plan for GSA participation.

Tips

- Prepare for the meeting with a list of possible advocacy action items, in case the group members cannot think of any to discuss. Consider having a guest speaker (administration approved) to talk about local advocacy opportunities (in person or via Zoom).
- Use member strengths. If one member is a good writer, ask if they will write an article for the local paper. If one member is an excellent public speaker, ask if they are interested in speaking to the school board or the legislature. Young people's voices are especially meaningful as often young people do not speak out.
- Community advocacy can include: representing the GSA at a gay pride march, parade, rally, or appreciation day; preparing comments and speaking in front of the school board, county commission, or state legislature on LGBTQ+ issues; writing editorials on local issues for local/state newspapers.