

What Students Can Do if They Want More Non-military Alternatives at Their Schools

Note: These are just some ideas to consider. More information and materials for many of these activities can be obtained from the groups listed at the end of this sheet.

1. Become empowered: Learn about students' First Amendment rights at www.comdsd.org/youth.htm
2. Get more information into schools: Ask that literature racks and posters with alternative information be placed in school wherever military recruitment information is on display. Contact Project YANO for the literature.
3. School career fairs: Ask career counselors to invite a group like Project YANO to participate in career and college fairs. Equal access to such events is supported by a local federal court ruling. Or, students can set up their own information table.
4. Keep student names from recruiters: Let your school know that you do not want your name released to recruiters. Have a parent or guardian tell your school that you wish to "opt out" at the beginning of the school year, before the lists are released. Ask if your school has a special opt-out form, or download one from www.projectyano.org. Educate other students and parents about students' right to "opt out."
5. ASVAB testing: The military's aptitude test, the ASVAB, is given in some schools so that recruiters can get personal information on students. If it is to be given at your school, you can insist that test be voluntary and that student information not be released to recruiters. In order to prevent the information from automatically being given to recruiters, your school must tell the military in advance that "ASVAB release option 8" must be used for ALL the students who are tested (it can't be just individual students). If the school won't agree to this, hand out leaflets ahead of time informing students that their private information will be given out if they take the test. Learn more about the ASVAB at www.studentprivacy.org.
6. Recruiter visits:
 - Counter recruiters by handing out leaflets with alternative information when they are at your school. Express symbolic opposition by having a student stand silently next to the recruiters dressed as the specter of death (black robes with a hood).
 - Set up a literature table on a different day or insist that a counter-recruitment group be invited to set up a table during lunch.

- Organize a campaign for the school district to adopt a policy to regulate all recruiting activities, like the one adopted in 2010 by San Diego Unified.
7. Alternative classes: Find out if classes are being cut that would help students prepare and qualify for college -- courses like AVID, AP, and classes in the basic subjects that are required to get into state colleges and universities.
8. Investigate JROTC:
- Find out if marksmanship training is given and, if so, whether shooting ranges are present in schools. San Diego Unified banned them in 2009.
 - Find out if students are ever placed in JROTC classes without requesting it, which in states like California is a violation of the state Education Code.
 - Request the JROTC enrollment statistics for each school. If any units have fallen below a total of 100 students two years in a row, petition to remove them as required by federal law.
 - Pass out leaflets at school to inform students that they cannot be put in JROTC without requesting it, and let them know that JROTC credits and grades may not count toward meeting admission requirements at public colleges and universities.

Organizations that offer information and help with countering militarism in schools:

Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities (Project YANO), Encinitas, CA; (760)634-3604, email contact@projectyano.org, www.projectyano.org

Education Not Arms Coalition of San Diego, contact@projectyano.org, www.projectyano.org/educationnotrms/

Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft (COMD, San Diego, CA, email contact@comdsd.org, (760) 753-7518; www.comdsd.org (see the students' rights info. on the youth page).

National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth (NNOMY), www.nnomy.org.

This list of actions was produced by the Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities (Project YANO) 760-736-3604, contact@projectyano.org, www.projectyano.org, www.facebook.com/projectyano

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