

Action Roles *for civil disobedience*

Before the Action

Action Team: decides action plan, sets timeline and action roles

Art Team: to make banners, paint signs, construct props that demonstrate your message

Legal Team: to discuss legal implications of civil disobedience with an attorney with experience defending First Amendment protest (preferably connected to the National Lawyers Guild), provide guidance and recommendations to potential members of Team A (risking arrest)

Scouts: Take photos of the action location and review with the full group

Media Team: write releases and create public outreach information (like flyers, Facebook events), meet one-on-one with trusted reporters to tip them off in advance (if it's a 'surprise' action)

Day-Of the Action

Action Team

- Scouts: "stake out" the location early and report on any unanticipated challenges
- Team A: Intentionally risk arrest during civil disobedience
- Team B: Help "Team A" with deployment/getting in position
- Police Liaison: Manage all communication with police, lookout for the safety of Team A
- Crowd Control Marshals: Support the Police Liaison in managing the flow of people to support your action strategy
- *For Actions Using Locks: off-site key holder in case lock keys are needed*

Legal Team

- Legal Support Coordinator: collects Team A information, manages communication with attorneys and possibly with jail personnel
- Coordinating Attorney: it can be especially useful to have one or more attorneys coordinate legal strategy as a whole (not always possible)
- Responding Attorney(s): who will be present at the jail/arraignment to represent defendants
- Legal Observers: in some cities attorneys prefer to have volunteer observers record police interactions
- Jail Support Coordinator: to sign-up volunteers for jail support shift after arrests

Health & Wellness Team

- Wellness Techs: take inventory of Team A needs, carry water/sunscreen/First Aid
- Food Aides: with plans & cash for purchasing food & beverages for jail support
- Post-Action Wellness Space: it can be useful to have a space to reflect, meditate and decompress together

Media Team

- Press Coordinator(s): sign-in for reporters, make sure they connect with spokespeople
- Press Callers: volunteers with phones and media contact lists
- Spokespeople: to be interviewed by media
- Primary Videographer(s): to record and (ideally) edit/upload action video
- Live-Stream Videographer (if you can live-stream the action)
- Photographer(s)
- Twitter & FB Mobilizers: tweet-ready volunteers with lists of people to ask for RTs for action hashtags

Street Outreach Team

- Flyers: pass out informational flyers for passersby
- Sign-Ups: volunteers with clipboards for passersby to sign-up for more info
- Sign-Holders: there's always another sign or prop to hold!

Energy Team! *Equipo Ánimo!*

- Chant-Leaders: prepared with a written list of chants (in multiple languages)
- Song-Leaders: prepared to sing loudly, with copies of lyrics to distribute (translated if necessary)
- Musicians: find some who can show up to play at the jail if you can!

After the Action

Full Group: Jail solidarity vigil until everyone's out! Raise bail money if necessary.

Legal Team: accompany Team A during booking, arraignment, charging, plea negotiations and to trial, if necessary. Alert others if there is a need to raise money for legal costs.

Media Team: Follow-up with reporters who showed up with feedback on their stories, pitch them on follow-up stories (follow-up with those who didn't show too!), continue feeding social media hashtags with updates

Health & Wellness Space: sometimes you can find acupuncturists, yoga therapists and other healers to provide their services at an after-action debrief

- written by Andrew Willis Garcés (andrew@trainingforchange.org)