



**// Concerned over military recruiters at your school?**

**// Do you know your rights when stopped by the police?**

**// Just how far can music and clothing censorship go?**

**// Concerned over discrimination in your community? Racism? Sexism? Ageism? Heterosexism?**

**// Are alternatives to courts and incarceration available to young people?**

ACLU of Wisconsin  
207 East Buffalo St., Suite 325  
Milwaukee, WI 53202-5774  
414.272.4032 x23  
youth@aclu-wi.org



Get informed  
Get active  
Create change  
... all while hanging out with your friends!

Every school is different - create your own concepts & actions based on your community's civil needs, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights!

## ACLU Student Alliance: High School Alliances

### Who we are:

The ACLU is a non-profit organization that has been fighting to protect people's rights since the 1920's. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights protect *all* people. We especially work to extend basic rights to those who have historically been denied them such as students and other young people, people of color, religious minorities, women, immigrants, the LGBTQ community, the incarcerated, people with disabilities and homeless people.

The ACLU does this by fighting for civil rights and liberties in the courts, in Congress and local state governments, and in your neighborhood with direct action and public education. Headquartered in NYC, we have affiliates in all 50 states, national conferences and a huge network.

### What we believe:

The ACLU believes that once the government or an institution violates the rights of one group of people, it is then able to use that precedent to violate the rights of everyone else. *Therefore*, we fight to protect the rights of all people. At times this has been perceived as quite controversial... but liberty for one is liberty for all.

### Getting Started:

If you'd like to start a ACLU Student Alliance (ACLUSA) in your high school, please give us a call at 414.272.4032 x23 or send us an e-mail at [youth@aclu-wi.org](mailto:youth@aclu-wi.org).

1. What are your school's policies regarding clubs on campus? Every school is different, so check with your school administrators before starting i.e. you may need to submit forms; the school may provide money for clubs; you may be able to host fundraising event activities, forums, etc... Please find out your school's rules for sponsoring on-campus activities.
2. Find an inspiring faculty advisor or club sponsor. Most schools require a teacher to sponsor a club or activity. A supportive and committed staff person can be crucial for your success. Great information for selecting a staff advisor and creating a Student Alliance can be found on the ACLU of Northern California's site @ [www.aclunc.org/youth/clubs\\_manual.html](http://www.aclunc.org/youth/clubs_manual.html)

## ACLU of Wisconsin Youth Programs

### The Other America Tour

Created in 2001, this program increases socio-cultural awareness, responsibility and action among Wisconsin youth. Inner city and suburban high schools pair up and talk about the oppressions they face and ways to prevent them.

The tour has traveled to 65 private and public high schools around the state to work with over 5,000 students on the important issues that face them today, including race, gender, religion, sexual identity, age class, ability, and national ideology.

### Youth Government Day

The annual Youth Government Day (YGD) gives Greater Milwaukee Area students an up-close and personal look at government. Participants select scenarios on local, state, federal, or international levels that address realistic and timely issues. Participants are briefed by technical (real-life judges or justices, legislators, and executives, etc.) and youth advisors to prepare them for sessions during which they use proper scenario-specific procedures.

#### Past issues include:

- // whether a foreign-born naturalized U.S. citizen could be deported after a closed hearing with no evidence;
- // what is reasonable excuse for a minor to be out past city curfew;
- // whether the U.S. should end the death penalty for 16 and 17 year old minors, which violates the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

### Milwaukee Teen Tribunal

The city's first restorative justice teen court program is coordinated by the ACLU of Wisconsin Foundation, in cooperation with Milwaukee Public Schools, Milwaukee Police Department, and the Municipal Court of Milwaukee. Its mission is to contribute to a reduction in the recidivism of juvenile offenders in the school environment; provide hands-on, law-related education including due process rights of young residents as well as leadership and life skills; and promote a noticeable, positive change in a school's social climate.

## How an ACLU Student Alliance Benefits the Community

Every young person who becomes involved with the ACLU of Wisconsin's youth programs such as the Student Alliance, The Other America Tour, Youth Government Day, or the Milwaukee Teen Tribunal becomes part of our Youth and Civil Liberties Council. The Council is a statewide network of young people who are dedicated to inspiring leadership in their peers and building a working knowledge of the rights and responsibilities of youth in America.

Participants may educate others and advocate for basic civic liberties and rights in their community and the country, for example: voter protection, youth rights, free speech, anti-Death penalty, racial justice, religious liberty, rights of the poor, reproductive freedom, LGBT rights, privacy and technology, immigrants' rights, and more. Alliances and information exchanges can be created between MANY other organizations and people.

### Please Call Us!

The ACLU of Wisconsin is one of your greatest assets. By communicating with our staff we can provide advice, resources, informational DVDs, speakers, contacts, materials, technical assistance and ideas. We can also post Student Alliance notices on our website at: [www.aclu-wi.org/youth](http://www.aclu-wi.org/youth).

The ACLU of Wisconsin has a Youth and Civil Liberties Council and coordinates The Other America Tour, Milwaukee Teen Tribunal, and Youth Government Day. We work with thousands of Wisconsin youth every year. *Please call us at 414.272.4032 x23 to start an ACLU Student Alliance.*

