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## Ready-Made Events for the 2012/2013 School Year

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Not sure what to do with your GSA or student club? Here are some ready-made days of action that can be used to organize an event, campaign, or display at your school.

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### ★ Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender History Month – *Every October*

Did you know that October is LGBT History Month? LGBT people have made significant contributions our culture and society, and there are tons of things that you and your GSA can do to uplift LGBT history at your school and create greater awareness about significant LGBT people and events.

Every year, [www.lgbthistorymonth.com](http://www.lgbthistorymonth.com) showcases a different person for each day of October. Visit their website to watch short videos and read bios for their LGBT history icons, dating back to 2007.

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### ★ National Coming Out Day – *October 11<sup>th</sup>*

National Coming Out Day (NCOD) is celebrated every October 11th. The day was born out of the 1987 LGBT March on Washington, D.C., when hundreds of thousands of Americans rallied to support equal rights. Today, NCOD events are held in hundreds of cities across the country and around the world. There are lots of things you can do to celebrate NCOD, including:

- ★ Inviting speakers to come talk to your school/club about their coming out experiences
  - ★ Designing a poster campaign to explain that everyone comes out – even straight people
  - ★ Holding an event that allows people to “come out” as allies to the LGBT community
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### ★ Ally Week – *October 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012*

And speaking of allies...

Who can play a huge role in ending anti-LGBT bullying and harassment in our schools? Allies! Ally Week will be taking place from October 20th to the 24th this year. What better way to kick off the school year than to have student clubs and GSAs identify and support allies in their school? Ally Week can be simple (passing out stickers to students who sign the ally pledge) or more advanced (planning an event or series of events throughout the week).

For more information about organizing Ally Week in your school, visit [www.allyweek.org](http://www.allyweek.org).

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★ Transgender Day of Remembrance – *November 20<sup>th</sup>*

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is held on November 20<sup>th</sup> every year and was established to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. The event is held to honor Rita Hester, whose murder in 1998 kicked off the “Remembering Our Dead” web project ([www.rememberingourdead.org](http://www.rememberingourdead.org)) and a San Francisco candlelight vigil in 1999.

Please note that while this day was set aside to remember those who have been killed, it’s equally important to honor those who are still living and fighting for gender justice today. For ideas on how to organize a TDOR event in your school, check out: [www.gender.org/remember/day/index.html](http://www.gender.org/remember/day/index.html) or [www.transgenderdor.org](http://www.transgenderdor.org).

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★ World AIDS Day – *December 1<sup>st</sup>*

World AIDS day is held on December 1<sup>st</sup> every year and began in 1988 to increase awareness, fight prejudice and improve education about the AIDS pandemic and its impact on the world stage.

To find out more information about HIV/AIDS or to get resources on how to organize events for World AIDS Day at your school, visit [www.worldaidsday.org](http://www.worldaidsday.org).

To download resources on how to talk to your GSA about HIV/AIDS and related topics, check out the “Doing Health Education” page on the GSAFE website here: [www.gsafewi.org/resources/for-youth-gsas/doing-health-education/](http://www.gsafewi.org/resources/for-youth-gsas/doing-health-education/)

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★ National Gay Straight-Alliance Day – *February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013*

Thousands of Gay-Straight Alliances and LGBT groups have been forming in schools and colleges across America to try to put a stop to bullying, homophobia, transphobia and hate. These student organizations dare to create dialogue to improve lives. It is brave work and deserves to be recognized and celebrated.

The 2012 GSA Day included students, adults and organizations from across the country and we witnessed an incredibly powerful day of action. Please join us and mark February 6, 2013 in your calendar to save the date for this next celebration!

Visit [www.gsaday.org](http://www.gsaday.org) to learn more about this event.

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★ Day of Silence – *April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013*

The Day of Silence is a student-led day of action on which those who support making anti-LGBT bias unacceptable in schools take a day-long vow of silence to recognize and protest the discrimination and harassment -- in effect, the silencing -- experienced by LGBT students and their allies. Day of Silence has been around for more than fifteen years, and has become one of the largest student-lead days of action in the country.

Many great ideas on how you can organize a Day of Silence (or something similar) in your school can be found at [www.dayofsilence.org](http://www.dayofsilence.org).

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★ Words Hurt Day/Week – *Any time you like!*

In 2010, a student who had attended GSAFE's summer Leadership Training Institute took our idea for an "anti-slur task force" back to her school and worked with her GSA and club advisor to create a really fantastic weeklong event – Words Hurt Week.

Since then, GSAs all around Wisconsin have been working with other students clubs and school departments to organize similar events, intended to create greater awareness of the power of words – words that can be used to hurt or to heal.

If you are interested in organizing a Words Hurt event in your school, make sure you check out the "Words Hurt Organizing Manual" on the GSAFE website here:

[www.gsafewi.org/resources/for-youth-gsas/gsa-actions-events/](http://www.gsafewi.org/resources/for-youth-gsas/gsa-actions-events/)

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The truth is that any of the events listed above could be organized any time. The content and goals of the event are what's important, not the "official" date.

We encourage GSAs to find out about events that other clubs and groups in their schools are organizing around, such as Martin Luther King Jr. Day, or the "Spread the Word to End the Word" campaign, and ask how you can support them. The goal is not to take over the event, or to demand that LGBT issues be addressed in those events; rather, we feel that in order to truly create safer schools for all students, the GSA movement has a responsibility to address other issues of injustice, such as racism, sexism, and ableism.

For any help or support you need around a day of action you're organizing at your school, contact Tim Michael at **(608)661-4141** or email [tim@gsafewi.org](mailto:tim@gsafewi.org).