

What is the Solidarity Sleep Out?

The Solidarity Sleep Out is an opportunity for young people to take action and let the world know that we will not stand by quietly while young people go homeless and hungry in the United States. By committing to sleeping outside with your friends for just one night you will take an active part in a national movement to end youth homelessness in the United States while raising money that will go directly to getting kids off the streets.

Who is it for?

The Solidarity Sleep Out is for high school and college-age young people who want to make a significant difference through a simple yet meaningful act of solidarity and compassion.

Why Would I Sleep Outside?

We know, it's a crazy idea – but it works!! Commit to sleeping outside, and you will get your *entire community* to commit themselves in some way to fighting youth homelessness in this country. You'll learn from hands-on experience what it's like to be homeless in our country, and you'll help everyone around you – friends, family, teachers, and neighbours – to realize that **they too** can help to make it so NO CHILD HAS TO SLEEP ON THE STREETS...as it should be.

How Can I Learn More?

Visit the event's website at <http://www.solidaritysleepout.org> for more information, or contact the event coordinator at 212-727-4990. The website also serves as the platform for registration for schools, groups and individuals, so just click on "Register" and we'll guide you from there. Search for St. Stephen's Church, that's us!

What is Covenant House?

Covenant House is the largest provider of services to homeless and runaway youth in North America. We help 70,000 young people each year to put their lives back together and make their way to a warm, safe and loving home.

Sample Press Release for Sleepout

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: (your name, organization)

Phone:

Cellphone:

Email:

Young People from (organization) to Sleep Outside in Support of Homeless Kids

On (date), (students/members) from (your organization) will be spending the night outside, to raise awareness about and funds for homeless young people. They will be experiencing a tiny bit of what it is like to be homeless, staying at (location) with chaperones, sleeping in cardboard boxes or sleeping bags.

The group is sleeping out to understand for just one night what nearly 2,000,000 kids in the United States will suffer this year, and to join them in solidarity in their daily struggle for basic human rights. The group also hopes to teach the community about the plight of homeless young people - not the kids thousands of miles away or on TV...but the kids just a few miles away who slip by unnoticed. More than two percent of all young people in the United States will find themselves homeless at some point this year, and that's not just in urban areas.

The (your organization) young people will be raising money to support Covenant House, the largest provider of services to homeless and runaway youth in North America. Covenant House, which has shelters in (list nearby cities), and operates a nationwide hotline for young people in crisis, helps 70,000 young people each year to put their lives back together and make their way to a warm, safe and loving home.

On the night of the sleepout in some areas, Covenant House will be providing experts, including current or former residents, to discuss homelessness.

If you are interested in attending, helping provide breakfast, donating, or chaperoning, please contact (contact person). For more information or to donate, please go to www.solidaritysleepout.org and search for the group's name.

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