
GET ORGANIZED

Film Screenings: A Great Tool for Organizing Your Community

Grace Bauer, a field organizer, joined the Campaign for Youth Justice in 2008. She has worked to unite the parents and allied children to change laws and practices that result in children being prosecuted and confined as adults.



As organizers, we are always looking for the people that are looking for us. We know that there are plenty of people who believe that children do not belong in cages; we are looking for those people to join us in our fight to change the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems. Film screenings are an easy and fun way to find the people in your community.

What film/films could I show?

"Childhood Interrupted Volume 2"

This is a free video produced by the Campaign for Youth Justice. The video is short and comes with a discussion guide for engaging the people that attend after the video.

"Justice for All"

A short film that shows the results of a comprehensive 3 year study of young people involved in systems around the country. You can purchase the video by going to <http://www.justiceforallthemovie.com/>

"The Farm" and "The Farm: 10 Down"

Two intensely moving films about the Angola State Penitentiary in the deep rural south of Louisiana. Can be purchased at <http://highestcommondenominator.bigcartel.com/>

There are many other films about prison and prison life that you can get from video rental stores or rent from your local library.

Where do I show the film?

The answer depends on how many people you are comfortable with. The more you feel comfortable with, the larger the space you need. This need not be an expense to you; many places will offer space at no cost for community events like these. A few places to consider:

- Your living room
- Local library
- Recreation centers
- Churches

How do I let others know about the film screening?

- Put up flyers around the neighborhood where you plan to show the film
- Church newsletter
- Public Service Announcements (these are free of charge in many newspapers and news stations)
- Put up a flyer at the local jail, prison or detention center
- Put up flyers at the courthouse or at stores near the courthouse if they will not allow you to post it at the court
- Send flyers to your local National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI)
- Send flyer to local providers of services for children who are at-risk of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system

What do I do at the meeting?

Introduce yourself and let people know why you decided to have this film screening. It is helpful to offer lig snacks and drinks but if you can't afford to do this, don't let that stop you. Have a sign in sheet so that peop can leave you with their contact information for any future events you may hold. You can also contact us at the Campaign for Join the Movement kits that include a "Childhood Interrupted" video, a bracelet and a Ta Action Guide.

You don't have to stop when this event ends. Think about holding other film screenings or community meetings to raise awareness about our children behind bars and to jump start discussions in your community for reform of these systems. We, at the Campaign, have years of expertise on organizing in your community and we are happy to help you figure out all the details of holding a film screening or other community meetings. Give us a call!

