

WISCONSIN IS MAKING A

Promise

Ribbon of Promise: A campaign to prevent school violence

The Ribbon of Promise had its beginnings in 1998 following a school shooting in Springfield, Oregon. To show sorrow for the victims, people started wearing the blue ribbons. Wearing a blue ribbon spread until it became a nationally recognized symbol of sorrow, hope and unity in the quest to end school violence. Thanks to Charter Communications and the Center for School, Youth and Citizen Preparedness, the Ribbon of Promise (ROP) is now a campaign empowering a number of schools in Wisconsin... and participation is growing.

ROP teaches students to take leadership and develop ways to create a positive school and community environment by preventing violence and bullying behavior in school, and to prevent and report bullying on-line.

ROP's mission is to unite the state in an effort to prevent school violence by acting as a resource for communication, education, planning and action. We seek to educate, engage and empower youth to take a stand to prevent both physical and emotional violence in schools and communities. We need your school, your voice and your involvement to continue to spread the word that school violence must end!

How can you take part?

Wear an outward symbol! Blue ribbons and wristbands are our symbols of hope and unity. Firefighters, medical personnel, law enforcement personnel, school personnel, civic groups, business leaders, local government representatives, religious groups and parents are some of the people in your state and your town that can become actively involved in supporting this cause. (Visit citizenpreparedness.org for ideas on how to get them involved!)

Form a local chapter in your school. Communities throughout Wisconsin are forming their own ROP chapters. It's easy and rewarding to become involved!

Participate in ROP sponsored activities – see the back of this page, and visit www.citizenpreparedness.org for more information.

Film a TV commercial! You and your school will be seen across Wisconsin as voices for the prevention of school violence! Learn more about how you can send your message with the help of Charter Communications at citizenpreparedness.org.

For more information and to view videos that have been created by Wisconsin youth, visit www.citizenpreparedness.org



Ribbon of
Promise
Wisconsin



Below are a few ways schools and communities are joining in making a Ribbon of Promise across Wisconsin

Holding school assemblies:

- Recruit diverse student role models to speak out about communicating with adults if threats or rumors are heard, promoting kindness and inclusion in school and working to defeat bullying and harassment both in school and on-line.
- Ask public officials, law enforcement personnel, sports stars, beauty queens and community or state leaders to come to your school and to talk about making good life choices.
- ROP has a speakers bureau to help you. Visit citizenpreparedness.org.

Hosting teen dances or mixers:

- Local organizations such as the YMCA/YWCA, Crimestoppers and others may help promote, organize and fund a school event where students invite a kid who needs a friend, to include those who are easily left out. Visit citizenpreparedness.org to learn how other schools have successfully done this.

Creating in-school activities:

- Start lunch table “meet someone at a different table” day
- Create hallway “share a smile” days
- For more “inclusion and kindness ideas” that include students who need a friend or are easily left out, visit citizenpreparedness.org.

Entering the Ribbon of Promise t-shirt contest:

The ROP t-shirt contest is held every two years and is open to all Wisconsin high school students. Students may submit artwork that is designed to encourage peers to take a stand against school violence. The winning entry is selected by a panel of judges and used on the next Ribbon of Promise t-shirt, which is available to Wisconsin schools. Find out details at citizenpreparedness.org.

Producing a school play:

Visit www.citizenpreparedness.org for information on plays students can produce that bring audiences face-to-face with the consequences of school violence, and open up discussion on the importance of reporting possession of weapons and threats of violence.

Signing a pledge:

Have students sign a pledge to remain non-violent and to report any threat or rumor of violent acts to school personnel, law enforcement or adult they trust. Visit www.citizenpreparedness.org for a pledge copy.

Filming a Ribbon of Promise PSA:

Charter Communications will work with schools to film a 30-second public service announcement about school violence, bullying, cyberbullying or other related topics. The students create, script and star in the PSA, which airs on cable television networks throughout Wisconsin during the school year. Call Charter Communications at (608) 288-6824 or visit citizenpreparedness.org for more information.

The Ribbon of Promise Motto:

“ We will overcome denial by admitting that it can happen anywhere.

We will overcome confusion by affirming that we will help identify the underlying problems.

We will overcome apathy by declaring we will do something to help.

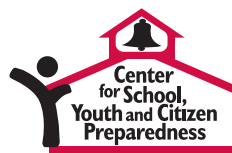
We will overcome fear by promising we will have the courage to act.

We will overcome school violence by agreeing together, we will prevent it.”

For more ROP programs and ideas on educating students, parents and school staff about school violence and how to prevent it, visit www.citizenpreparedness.org.



SPONSORED BY:



Center for School, Youth and Citizen Preparedness
W11019 Lake View Dr. / Lodi, WI 53555
Phone: (608) 592-5200 / Cell: (608) 212-5381
E-mail: mjerschen@citizenpreparedness.org
Website: www.citizenpreparedness.org