



Awareness. Education. Support.

Working Together to End Sexual Violence

Event Ideas for Sexual Assault Awareness Week (SAAW) May 14-18, 2018

The Government of Saskatchewan has proclaimed May 14-18, 2018 as Sexual Assault Awareness Week. Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan (SASS) along with our member agencies and many communities around the province are recognizing this week by hosting events to create awareness of sexual violence and support female, male and child survivors. Through awareness, education, and support, we are uniting to break the silence of assault and shift attitudes that will change behaviours and reduce sexual violence.

Here are some events ideas to help you plan an event or two in your community during the Sexual Assault Awareness Week. Please adapt events and activities to meet your community's needs. Take pictures of your events and we will post them in our newsletter, website and Facebook.

Set up an information booth

Set up an information booth or a table at a location in your community in areas such as the school, library or community center. Hang teal decorations, distribute this event guide and offer SASS products and giveaways (teal ribbons, lip balms, stickers, wristbands, pamphlets etc.) to attract visitors.

Offer a poster consent

The theme for this year's SAAW is "Don't stand by, speak up to sexual assault". Hold a contest for local students to create your organization's SAAW posters. Use social networking sites like Facebook or Twitter to promote the contest and announce the winner. Offer prizes to attract more submissions.



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Host an open house

An open house provides an opportunity for your organization to raise its profile in the community and to provide valuable information. Make brochures, signs and educational information available and provide information about volunteer opportunities. Invite board members and local officials. Publicize the open house in newspapers, on radio stations and online.

Showcase an art exhibit

Have survivors create art or photography displays to express their healing as part of a support or therapy group. One example is the “clotheslines project” in which participants can paint or draw their experiences on an 8x11 paper and hang it on a designated clothesline as an art exhibit to the community. Other examples include making quilts, clothing, collage, and jewelry. Display the art in a public space and have local musicians and other artists perform.

Involve the community

Create an annual walk or run event to raise awareness. You can plan a walk for sexual violence awareness, or to support survivors. During the walk, decorate a person’s shirt in teal ribbons, have that person walk ahead of everyone and have an advocate accompany the human ribbon to engage onlookers. Local dignitaries could be recruited to be the “human ribbon.” Have educational information available to distribute to observers.

Have a vigil service in local places of worship to commemorate victims of sexual assault.

Invite an elder to speak on sexual violence and pray for the community.

Host a fun exercise event such as Zumba, yoga, or dance class to get your community moving to end sexual violence.



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Sponsor an essay contest

Invite community members to write essays about the impact of sexual violence on their lives and their role in prevention. Collect and publish the essays. Distribute these stories to your community members and the donors of your sexual assault programs.

Collaborate on “a cup of prevention”

Ask local coffee shops, book stores, and small restaurants to donate a percentage of their coffee and tea sales to local sexual assault program during the SAAW.

Host a “coffee” event

Invite local town counsellors, the mayor and any local dignitaries to have an informal discussion of how they can make the community safe, lower the rates of sexual assault cases and support victims of sexual violence.

Partner with local police or RCMP

Request permission to tie teal ribbons to the antennae of police cars. Request the local RCMP or police to attend the local school and talk to students about their rights and how to report sexual assaults.

Welcome survivors to “Speak Out”

This type of event creates a safe space for survivors of all forms of sexual violence to “speak out” about their experience, recovery, and healing. Choose a fairly quiet location for your event and ensure that local professionals and or elders are on hand to provide assistance to participants in need.

Teal Ribbon Campaign

Tie a teal ribbon to your car, your clothing, etc. Distribute teal ribbons. Wherever you place the ribbons, be sure to have information on the ribbon as a symbol of sexual assault awareness and prevention efforts.





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Common Myths and Realities of Sexual Assault

Myth: It won't ever happen to me.

Reality: There is potential for any woman, man or child to be sexually assaulted. It can happen to people of every age, race, social class, religion, education level, ability, sexual orientation, and physical description.

Myth: Most victims are raped by strangers and it is "spur of the moment".

Reality: Most sexual assaults are planned, and often happen during the day and in a home. It is estimated that 85 to 90% of victims know their perpetrator as a relative, neighbor, friend, or acquaintance. Rape by a fellow student, co-worker or new acquaintance is frequent among young single women.

Myth: Only young women are at risk of being raped.

Reality: Women and men of all ages are at risk. Statistics have estimated that **1 in 3 females** and **1 in 6 males** will be assaulted during her or his lifetime.

Myth: Rape is about sex and desire.

Reality: Rape is about power and control, not sex. Sexual violence is about taking control over another human being. More than half the females who have been raped are physically assaulted as well.

Myth: Someone who was drinking or drunk when sexually assaulted is at least partially to blame for what happened.

Reality: Victims are never ever responsible for the attack, no matter what, and no matter how much alcohol was consumed. The responsibility lies with the perpetrator and his/her choice in behaviour. Sex without consent is sexual assault.

Myth: When a woman says "no" she actually secretly wants it and enjoys being forced.

Reality: No one enjoys being made to do what they don't want to do. No one asks to be hurt or violated. "No" literally means "No".

