

Student Network Tip-Sheet

Tabling

Tabling is an effective method for educating the public and recruiting volunteers. Tabling does not always involve a table, but refers to recruiting in any situation where people pass by or congregate. You can table to recruit activists, distribute literature, build visibility for a campaign, gather signatures on a petition, generate calls to a target's office, and train volunteers on basic organizing skills.

Planning your tabling event

1. Choose the place, date, and time of your table.
2. Recruit Volunteers to help you table. If you don't have any yet, see point 3 for tips on how to make this happen.
3. Set goals for how much grassroots product (letters, postcards, phone calls, photo petitions) and volunteers you want to get. For example, plan to collect 20 postcards and to identify five new volunteers an hour.
4. Put all the materials you will need in a box. Have your materials ready before the event. Things to bring could include postcards, pens, clipboards, campaign info, stickers, buttons, music, banners, signs, props, a camera, etc.
5. The night after your table, call the volunteers you identified and invite them to your next meeting or event.

How to have a successful tabling event

- Set your table up in high traffic areas, open pedestrian malls, farmers markets, festivals, fairs, concerts, etc
- Make sure you are highly visible
- Table in a variety of places to educate and recruit different types of people.
- Plan ahead of time to table in public areas (get permission or a permit if you need to)
- Train all your volunteers on the basic campaign info and tips on what to say (having a rap is always a good idea. A sample one is below).
- Make the table looks attractive and professional. Include banners, posters, fact sheets, buttons, calendar of events, and volunteer sign up sheets.
- Don't hide behind the table. The table is a base with a wealth of information on it. Move away from the table and into the crowd. Standing behind the table will prevent you from reaching out to as many people as possible.
- Make the table is fun and high energy. Play music or have fun props. You will attract more people this way.
- Ask everyone who passes by to stop and talk with you. Once they stop, use your rap and make sure to ask them to volunteer with your campaign.

Sample tabling rap to collect grassroots product for your local Representative

Hi, can you sign a postcard to help stop global warming?

Great! *Hand them the postcard. While they fill it out say*

My name is [NAME] with Greenpeace.

As you know, global warming is happening—and it's affecting people everywhere. The good news is, a lot of people are already doing their part—driving less, changing their light bulbs, and things like that. But these small actions alone can't stop global warming. We need real leadership from our government. That's what these postcards are about.

GREENPEACE

Greenpeace is working with citizens here in XXX to make sure our candidates for Congress are committed to tackling global warming. Are you interested in hearing more about what we're doing?

Great! Just check the "volunteer" box at the bottom and make sure to put down your phone number. I'll give you a call and let you know what's happening. Thanks!