

Protect Our Pack: Orientation & Other Training Programs



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Services & Bystander Initiatives

“Protect Our Pack” Background

- 2014 Tasked with creating a university wide bystander intervention program with a committee of students, staff & faculty
- Name “Protect Our Pack” and logo were designed and chosen by students in incentivized contest
- Program was created utilizing best practices from multiple sources
- New training began in summer orientation in 2015
- Pack Leaders recruited & trained spring 2017 & provided programs in residence halls as of fall 2017
- Additional educational programs were added

Bystander Program Concepts

- Doing the right thing is the norm rather than special
- Key elements are “empathy” and “personal responsibility”
- Scenario based to facilitate discussion and develop strategies for intervening
- Focus on being part of a larger community and showing responsibility for one another
- Building on “Husky Pride”

Orientation Background

- Program includes Federally required material
- 2015 – 2019 approx. 25,000 students received in person Protect Our Pack training during orientation (summer & winter)
- Provided to first year and transfer students at all campuses
- Presentation has remained largely the same to maintain a baseline of knowledge for students

Orientation cont.

- 2020 long video created quickly to pivot due to Covid – asynchronous learning
- 2021 new two-video shortened program created due to Covid – asynchronous learning
- This summer 38 Storrs & 34 regional in person sessions scheduled

What is Covered in Orientation

- Sexual Assault
- Consent
- Incapacitation
- Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)
- Stalking
- Confidential, private but non-confidential, and exempt resources
- Protect Our Pack bystander intervention
- Interactive scenarios for intervening practice

Scenarios for Orientation

- Three scenarios:
 - Situation that could lead to a sexual assault (intoxicated person being taken from a party)
 - Probable IPV involving a friend being harmed seeing bruises and yelling
 - Bias situation of roommate making racist jokes
- Students are directed to turn to a peer sitting near them and discuss options for intervening
- Volunteers share options to respond with brief discussion
- Each followed by “possible responses” slide to discuss further including why certain responses are not helpful or dangerous

Additional Trainings

- Provided by request
- Focus based on needs of group
- Interactive
- Additional written scenarios provided
- Scenario videos created by Pack Leaders utilized
 - IPV at party
 - Stalking
 - Verbal / controlling IPV
 - Bias incident
 - Tinder sexual assault

Groups Trained (Past 5 years)

- Resident Assistants
- Week of Welcome (WOW) Leaders
- International Student
- Orientation Leaders
- International Exchange Students
- Off Campus Student Services Leaders
- Athletic teams (38)
- Greek Life (18)
- One Summer Res Life Staff
- FYE, AAC & Learning Community mentors
- Staff groups (22)
- Student organizations (12)
- Academic classes
- *Res Hall programs & Greek Life by Pack Leaders*

Questions?

