



NARAL Pro-Choice New York Activist and Volunteer Frequently Asked Questions

As an activist with NARAL Pro-Choice New York, you're joining a dedicated community of pro-choice activists who have worked tirelessly for over 40 years to protect and expand reproductive health care and rights throughout New York State.

Below, we have compiled some answers to our most frequently asked questions so that you can hit the ground running! Please contact our Community Organizer any time at lhoward@prochoiceny.org or 646-520-3506 with questions or concerns.

What is NARAL Pro-Choice New York?

NARAL Pro-Choice New York is a political and advocacy reproductive rights organization that works at the state and local level to protect and advance access to the full range of reproductive health care to help men, women and teens stay healthy and safe.

We work to pass proactive, pro-choice legislation and to defeat anti-choice initiatives. Politically, we work to elect pro-choice officials and hold them accountable to our mission by ensuring they pass progressive legislation. At the community level, we provide educational resources and information while simultaneously engaging and empowering individuals to join us in working to achieve our broader, long-term goals.

What does it mean to be pro-choice?

To be pro-choice means supporting every woman's fundamental right to make her own choice about pregnancy and child-bearing, including abortion. It also means believing that we need to do more to give women a broader range of reproductive options, including better access to contraceptives and responsible sexuality education.

Does NARAL Pro-Choice New York provide abortion care and other reproductive health services?

We do not provide abortion care or any other reproductive health care services. For a list of all resources available to people facing unplanned pregnancies or seeking reproductive health care in New York State, please consult our "Book of Choices." The "Book of Choices" is published on-line in both English and Spanish at: <http://www.prochoiceny.org/boc/>

What do activists do at NARAL Pro-Choice New York?

Activists play a crucial role in NARAL Pro-Choice New York's mission to ensure that all women have access abortion care and the full range of reproductive health care options.

There are a variety of ways to get involved. Activists work in our office and make calls to supporters, mail out event invitations and information, complete data-entry and all other administrative tasks necessary to support our important work. Activists are an integral part of our advocacy efforts. Activists work in local and state electoral campaigns, write letters and circulate petitions in support of pro-choice legislation, join phone banks aimed at organizing wide spread support for all of our efforts, table and do street outreach at concerts and fairs, help set-up and attend all of our community events, organize their own communities, and invite NARAL representatives to speak. There are short term and long term projects suited to any schedule and you can even take action from home.

We are also interested in incorporating activists' interests in developing new opportunities. Please contact our Community Organizer with any new ideas you have to organize your own community!

Where are the NARAL Pro-Choice New York offices?

470 Park Avenue South, 7th Floor (between 31st and 32nd streets)
New York, NY 10016

Who is the volunteer and activist contact person at NARAL Pro-Choice New York?

Community Organizer Lalena Howard. She can be reached at 646-520-3506 or lhoward@prochoiceny.org.

Can I get school or community service credit for my involvement?

Yes. Please give any necessary information or paperwork to our Community Organizer for completion.

What should I do if I am asked a question I can not answer while taking action or volunteering?

Be honest! Refer them to our website at www.prochoiceny.org for more info or take their contact information and pass it on to our Community Organizer to follow up with the person

What should I do if I am approached for comment from the media while taking action or volunteering?

Please refer all media inquiries immediately to Samantha Levine, Director of Marketing and Media Relations, at 646-520-3510 or slevine@prochoiceny.org. If you can not get in touch with Samantha at the moment, please thank the media representative for their interest and instruct them to contact Samantha at the number or e-mail above.

What should I do if I am approached by someone who is anti-choice while taking action or volunteering?

Be safe and trust your instincts! You are the best judge of whether someone is truly interested in engaging in a conversation or just wants to yell and scream. Only engage in conversations you feel comfortable having. As a volunteer with NARAL Pro-Choice New York, you are encouraged to share our values and information about the issues we work on. However, you are never obligated to defend your beliefs or change others' opinions. It is much more important to spend your time with us focused on reaching out to those who are genuinely interested in learning more, who are in need of our information, or are potentially interested in joining our efforts.

If someone engages you at length, whether they agree with your views or not, kindly thank them for their time and let them know that you have lots of people to talk to today.

If you feel unsafe or threatened in anyway, speak with your volunteer coordinator or event leader immediately.