



ALTERNATIVE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR



Plan Your Approach

- Research how groups in other parts of your region of the country are presenting alternatives to the military and learn from the best of them.
- Work with On Earth Peace resource people to develop goals and a strategy for your local initiative.

Know Your Community

- Find out how many youth in your area are going in to the military each year, as well as how many are going to college, how many are working full-time, etc. Seek to understand what is happening regarding youth's futures, and why. Find out what is affecting and motivating the youth you will work with.
- Become familiar in a detailed way with educational institutions and opportunities in your area. This includes options for GED, higher education, including vocational schools, community colleges, and four-year colleges. Research funding options for each of these tracks.

Develop Relationships

- Develop a strategy for meeting youth and young adults who are military-eligible and attracted to the military. Set out to nurture specific relationships with specific young people, and help them develop goals, a sense of personal power and direction, and identify a trajectory for personal success.
- Offer to make presentations about positive futures, job training, educational opportunities, the truth about military recruiting, etc., at Boys and Girls Clubs, other after school programs, and to table in your local high school. Consider volunteering with these programs as a part of your effort.

Support Existing Supports

- Reach out to guidance counselors and/or local youth program directors to support their work in ways that they might find useful. Find out if they would like a hand in helping youth find their next steps. Provide them with resources.