

SAFE ZONE ALLY TRAINING

PRESENTED BY PRISM



What is a Safe Zone Ally?

First, a Safe Zone is a welcoming, supportive and safe environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) students. A Safe Zone Ally, then, is a person who promotes inclusion and understanding of all people, regardless of their orientation, identity, or expression.

Safe Zone Allies are not perfect, and they don't have all the answers. However, they have committed to 1) educating about oppression, heterosexism, transphobia, and homophobia; 2) combating these prejudices in ourselves, in our community, and at Saint Leo; 3) providing a safe, confidential support network for members of the LGBTQ+ community; and 4) treating everyone with the dignity and respect they are entitled to as individuals.



Why does Saint Leo need a Safe Zone program?

From the Gay, Lesbian, & Straight Education Network's National School Climate Survey, we know that school is not always a safe place for LGBTQ students. The majority of LGBTQ students report feeling unsafe at school and are likely to skip class or even full days of school to avoid the anti-LGBTQ name-calling, bullying & harassment they face on a daily basis.

Having clearly identifiable Safe Zones on campus makes a big difference. For many students, simply knowing that allies exist can be a source of support. Research shows that LGBTQ students with many supportive educators feel safer at school, skip fewer classes, and earn higher grades than students without supportive educators.

When are the next Safe Zone Ally training sessions?

We try to offer one faculty/staff training session and one student training session per month, and we work to vary the times and days the training sessions are offered, to accommodate as many people's schedules as possible.

Check with our events page on EngageLeo (<https://bit.ly/prism-events>) for the full list of what's currently planned.

If your club, team, department, office, Greek organization, or large group of like-minded friends wants to schedule a special training session just for you, simply reach out to prism@saintleo.edu.

We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming training event!



BECOME A SAFE ZONE ALLY

It's easy to be an ally! Really, all you have to do is commit to listen to and learn from members of the LGBTQ+ community and be there to help them feel comfortable, welcome, and wanted here at Saint Leo. But to make things more official—and to help folks learn how best to make a difference, we offer monthly Safe Zone Ally training sessions both for students and for faculty/staff. Check our complete list of upcoming dates on Prism's EngageLeo events page: (<https://bit.ly/prism-events>).



Each three-hour training session includes examination of the vocabulary of orientation, identity, and expression; an overview of the coming-out process and how difficult it can be; and discussion of various scenarios in which an Ally can help support LGBTQ+ community members.

At the end of the training session, participants have the option to sign a Safe Zone Ally Contract and commit to providing a safe and confidential network of resources for everyone in our community. Faculty, staff, and Resident Assistants who sign the Contract receive a Safe Zone Ally sign for their office/residence doors. Students who sign the Contract receive a Safe Zone Ally button, perfect for attaching to a backpack to show they bring support wherever they go.

To see the complete list of all faculty/staff Safe Zone Allies (and their office locations), visit Prism's EngageLeo page (<http://bit.ly/prism-engageleo>). We update the list after each Safe Zone Ally training session, celebrating the expanding network of support students have at Saint Leo.