
Tunnel of Oppression: Participating Student Organization/Student Group Informational Packet

Event Date: April 26 2016

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What is the Tunnel of Oppression?

Tunnel of Oppression is an interactive event that highlights contemporary issues of oppression. It is designed to introduce participants to the concepts of oppression, privilege, and power. Participants are guided through a series of scenes that aim to educate and challenge them to think more deeply about issues of oppression. At the end of the tour, participants are provided with the opportunity to discuss their experiences with each other. Facilitators help participants reflect on their experiences and put their newfound knowledge to use in their everyday lives.

Tunnel of Oppression is a campus grassroots diversity program that originated in 1993 at the Western Illinois University. Using the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, California as a model, Tunnel strives to give people a way to experience oppression in a hands-on way. By engaging emotions of the participants, it allows for the accounts expressed in the program to be truly effective. People may have never been placed in these types of situations, and they obtain a sense of what it actually feels like to be oppressed or discriminated through the sights and sounds they experience. While Tunnel may be disturbing, it is an effective tool used to teach people about how it really feels to be in the various situations.

Our Tunnel of Oppression:

The Tunnel of Oppression that we have set up will cover a wide variety of topics. Examples of topics that could be used to develop a scene include, but are not limited to: racism, domestic violence, body image, sexism, religious intolerance, stigma of mental illness, ableism, and suicide. We look forward to seeing what your group or organization comes up with for your proposal!

The structure of our Tunnel of Oppression the night of the event is as follows:

1. Attendees will receive information about the Tunnel of Oppression from a tour guide
2. Attendees enter Tunnel with the aid of a tour guide. In each scene, the tour guide will read an introductory paragraph on the nature of the topic.
3. After the introduction, the participants will experience the topic of the scene (acting, video, media, poetry, words, and/or posters). The tour guide will read once more and guide the participants to the next scene.
4. After the last scene, participants are taken to another room and debriefed on what they have experienced. A final activity concludes the experience.

Important People to Know

Joshua Moore

Associate Director

Serving Engaged Empowered & Diverse Students (S.E.E.D.S.)

Email: Joshua.Moore@tamuc.edu

Phone: 903-468-6082

Lauren Krznarich

Assistant Director

Leadership Engagement & Development (L.E.A.D.)

Email: Lauren.Krznarich@tamuc.edu

Phone: 903-468-3046

Important Dates

February 29, 2015 – Proposals due via the online form

(bitly.com/TunnelOfOppressionProposal)

March 21-25, scheduled individually – Check-in #1 with Josh & Lauren

April 11-15, scheduled individually – Check-in #2 with Josh & Lauren

April 19-21, multiple time slots available – Dress Rehearsals

Tuesday, April 26, 5:00-9:00pm, RSC Conference Rooms – Tunnel of Oppression Event

Guidelines for Involvement

1. Complete Scene Proposal Online Form
(bitly.com/TunnelOfOppressionProposal)
2. Attend meetings referenced above. A well-informed representative from each participating student organization must attend each of the above meetings.
3. Maintain communication with Josh and Lauren in all matters regarding the event
4. Communicate needs your organization for your specific scene (technology or setup needs, etc.)
5. Provide necessary topical information in regards to Tunnel of Oppression scene
6. Sign up and participate in a dress rehearsal time the week before the event (4/19-4/21)
7. Attend and participate on the day of the event (April 26)

Check-In Meetings

These meetings will occur on the dates above and will serve as a way for us to check-in with each student organization. During the meeting each student organization will give a report on their scene and discuss the nature of their topics. During this meeting the needs of the organization will be discussed.

Day of the Event

The Tunnel of Oppression event is on April 26th from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm in the Rayburn Student Center Conference Rooms. Participants will be sent in groups every half hour during the entirety of the event. The last group will enter the Tunnel at 8:30 pm. Because of this, each student organization's scene within the Tunnel of Oppression must be functional through the whole time. For instance, if your room is acting, there must be actors from 4 pm to 9:30 pm. We cannot stress the importance of the scene being ready for the whole event. In keeping this in mind, please consider carefully how your scene will function. Groups may begin setting up their scenes as early as 10 am on April 26th.

Videos describing Tunnel of Oppression at other Universities:

University of Miami: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-9StO50hr8>

Pacific Lutheran: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3EVrTJY9wYM>

UWO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zVUJTPINoCw>

Missouri State: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFfc-5svGLI>

SIU Carbondale: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qFg0aVuvfl>