

Direct Action Roles for Action Groups

(A very abbreviated list...)

BEFORE ACTION

Activist, Organizer, Coordinator, Campaigners: make sure that your work is grounded in organizing, and that your actions fit into a coherent strategy.

Fundraisers: sometimes it takes money- almost always- even if it is just passing the hat.

Researchers: to learn about the target and gather facts for the campaign.

Scouting the site or route

Outreach and organizing

Logistics and support

Meeting **facilitator**

Artists, Painters, Sewers to make props, signs, banners, political theatre, etc.

Media outreach: Send out media advisory and media release, pitch stories to the press,

Media kits: write, gather and photocopy contents.

Writers: write materials, flyers, media kit contents, web site, etc.

DURING ACTION

People risking arrest: intending to risk arrest and commit civil disobedience

Direct Support People: risking arrest by staying with those committing civil disobedience as long as possible and necessary and providing a human shield to those committing civil disobedience at the target.

Police Liaison: maintains communication between police and demonstrators.

Peacekeepers/monitors: another "layer" of human shield protection for the demonstration, specializing in nonviolent de-escalation techniques.

Deployment Team: helpers for getting people committing civil disobedience ready and in place.

Diversion Team: to draw attention away from the people most vulnerable

Media spokesperson: delivers crisp, 6-9 second sound bites to hungry reporters.

Media outreach: stays back in the office faxing press releases and making outreach calls.

Communication team: helps "clusters" of affinity groups stay in touch.

Demonstrators/Sign-holders/Chanters/Singers/ Hand out literature etc.

Videographer(s): to document the action and provide images to media.

Still photographer: to document the action and provide images to media.

Medic/EMT/Medical Team: deal with emergency health issues of participants.

Legal Observer(s): observes the police action, paying close attention to police violence.

Jail Support Contact person: the person on the "outside" who we call to update.

Off-site support people: to provide support for people risking arrest- must have all vital information of people risking arrest.

AFTER ACTION

Legal Support to help the people in jail and coordinate with lawyers.

Lawyer: provides support and information about our choices.

Documentarian/Historian/Archivist: keep track of the paperwork and footage.

Fundraisers

Public speakers

Letter writers to decision-makers and newspaper editorial boards

Emotional supporters and friends to help people with post-action fatigue and emotions.