

Ten Ways You Can ADVOCATE FOR GIRLS:

DO YOUR HOMEWORK! *Learn as much as you can about the issue or problem. It's hard to know everything about an issue. Don't let a concern that you haven't got all of the history and details stop you from advocating for the principle you see.*

1. Collect stories from young women and their parents on the successes they have experienced in being part of your program and send them to your legislators (send a copy to the Coalition for us to use in our statewide advocacy).
2. Provide the support and opportunity for girls to use their voices (tell their stories, tell decision-makers what has worked for them, share their concerns and say what they need) with legislators. *SPEAK! It isn't advocacy if you don't tell someone. Don't be intimidated about communicating with a public official.*
3. Invite the senator, representative, and candidates from your district to visit your girl's program (s).
4. Write a letter or email to your senator and representative or candidate(s) introducing yourself and sharing the issues and needs important to young women. *You can find the names and contact information of your senator and representatives by going to www.leg.state.or.us and clicking on "Find Your Legislator."*
5. During the Legislative Session, call your legislators and/or the leadership in the legislature about the specific issue requiring immediate response. *Visit links listed above to find the names and contact information of your senator and representatives.*
6. Voice your opinion and/or support young women in raising their voices in public meetings (i.e. local school boards or board of county commissioners meetings) or in newspapers about specific issues relating to and affecting girls.
7. Vote, and get all of your family, neighbors, colleagues and friends to vote as well! **ACTION!** *Ask the public official to DO something!*
8. Be a voice for girls by advocating with all state departments serving youth to comply with implementation of the Equal Access Law (ORS 417.270) and gender-specific services policies.
9. Distribute the Coalition's one-page advocacy information sheet to everyone that you think needs to know the specific issues of girls at-risk or who could use this message in their advocacy for girls. *(Get a copy of the Advocacy Information Sheet from the Coalition. Contact us at 503.233.4356.) Or at our website: www.equalaccessforgirls.org*
10. Get your email address (by emailing it to: pam.patton@morrisonkids.org) on the Coalition's "Advocacy Alert List" so that when specific legislative issues come up around girls, we can send the information to you immediately.

Coalition of Advocates for Equal Access for Girls

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