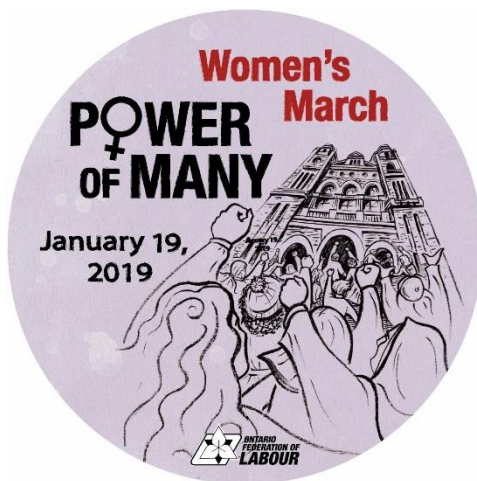


SAMPLE

GUIDE FOR MARSHALS

at rallies & marches



CENTRAL EVENT ASSIGNMENTS

CONTACT LIST

MARSHAL TEAM

HEAD MARSHAL: Name Phone number

HEAD MARSHAL: Name Phone number

LEAD MARSHAL: Name Phone number

LEAD MARSHAL: Name Phone number

Disability Vans Co-coordinator: Name Phone number

MEDIA RELATIONS: Name Phone number

Walkie Talkies ----- channel #

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What to Bring

Items that are always useful to bring to a demonstration include:

- **Notepad and pen:** These are handy for taking detailed notes of any incident that might occur during the demonstration. For example, if there are arrests, it is worth recording the names of people arrested, their telephone numbers, contacts, details of the arrest, and so on.
- **Clothing:** Ask yourself whether the shoes you are wearing are comfortable for walking/running. Wear comfortable clothes that you can move in freely. Dress weather appropriate.
- **Prescription drugs:** Have these in their original packaging, in case you are detained.
- **Identification:** You may wish to carry photo identification such as a driver's license and health card.
- **Emergency contact:** Have an emergency contact number written somewhere on your person and inform a family member or friend that you are volunteering as a Marshal at the March.

What Not to Bring:

- Do not bring your address book or any other document containing sensitive information.
- Do not bring any illegal drug or contraband.
- Do not bring anything that might be considered a weapon.

Role of Marshals at a March

- ➔ To facilitate the action as planned;
- ➔ To act as an information source for planners and demonstrators;
- ➔ To help demonstrators be safe and feel good about demonstrating;
- ➔ To act as a buffer between police, hecklers and bystanders.
- ➔ Communicate any major issues (medical conditions, problems with police, and situations that you cannot resolve to a Head Marshal).

Identifying Marshals

Marshals will be wearing red scarves. Head and Lead marshals will be wearing orange reflective vests.

Tips for Good Marshaling

- Don't panic, ever.
- Don't do the police's job, ever. (see Police Relation Section)
- Have FUN and join in the chants.

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What Marshals Do On A March

Front Marshals

Lead at a slow pace, keep march moving steadily, watch for obstructions, assist with directing marchers.

Side Marshals

Block traffic at intersections (facing cars), watch perimeters, keep group in the designate lane on the roadway.

Back Marshals

Bring up the rear, set the pace, make sure no one gets left behind.

All Marshals

Keep spirits high — encourage chanting and singing

Police Relations

The police see their role at an action as maintaining safety, and acting to protect property and bystanders from damage. They may also see their role as containing demonstrators; to keep us from making a commotion.

Marshals are the primary communication link between police and demonstrators. Marshals should approach police confidently but not aggressively. It is also best to approach police with caution, but not with suspicion. Although ideally, the police are experienced with non-violent protest and will not attempt to intimidate a crowd that is acting lawfully (ie: that is not committing civil disobedience), nevertheless, it is possible that police may act aggressively. Try to be calm during a confrontation with a police officer.

Immediately contact a head marshal to help resolve the issue and to inform them of the situation. All incidents should be reported to a head marshal.

A number of police officers will be present on bicycles and it is possible that there will be police on horseback. The horses are generally used to secure intersections, but particular attention should be paid to keeping demonstrators out of the path of the horses.

NEVER touch a police officer. Any physical contact with a police officer on duty can result in a criminal charge of assault. At the same time, be assertive in your right to demonstrate legally.

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Crowd Relations

Help to keep the vibe up-beat and positive.

Remember, stress is contagious and rally participants are looking to the marshals for guidance. So, your mood becomes their mood.

If the entire crowd is in danger or panicking, tell everyone to SIT DOWN. This keeps people safer and more non-threatening; it takes control of the street space and allows you to regroup and regain composure.

Hijacking Your Protest

Virtually every peaceful non-violent civil disobedience event attracts other protesters who engage in violent activity directed towards the police or towards property. Oftentimes these protesters are masked; on occasion they are agent provocateurs or police officers themselves. Often they mingle with peaceful protesters, in the hope that these peaceful protesters will inadvertently act as their cover or to make it seem as if their numbers are greater than they truly are.

It goes without saying that the activities of these individuals frustrate and discredit the conduct of the peaceful non-violent protesters. The media often seizes upon the conduct of the violent few to characterize and discredit the entire protest movement.

There are a few basic steps that may minimize these results and protect you against this type of conduct.

- physically move away from these individuals when they attempt to join your group of protesters.
- state clearly in a very loud voice that you disprove of the violence and are not part of it in any way.
- the use of marshals around all four perimeters of your group of protesters. The function of the marshals is to ensure that other violent individuals cannot mingle with your particular group. They also perform a valuable function in keeping your group physically together.

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Bystanders Relations

There may be hecklers at the action. In this case, marshals should not ignore them but rather face the problem. If possible, one marshal should approach the heckler and engage him/her in a quiet discussion, separated from the main body of the rally. You may be able to distract a hostile person and calm them by talking to them gently. Other marshals should monitor this interaction to ensure that it remains peaceful.

Marshals should attempt to de-escalate the situation and should not engage in an aggressive confrontation.

By having marshals take responsibility for such interactions, the rest of the rally participants are not distracted, and the march continues on its route.

In Case of a Medical Emergency

One marshal remains with the injured person, another calls in to a Head Marshal.

If police are the cause of the injury, the second marshal should directly contact a Head Marshal and call over potential witnesses.

Know Your Role

Marshals should never act as police officers under any circumstances. As a marshal, you are not keeping order, you are facilitating it. Marshals have no power or authority over other protestors, despite possible disagreements over tactics.

Attempting to act as police officers can put you into particular legal trouble if your actions are inappropriate or are, themselves, against the law. You should never presume to be a legal authority.