

GSOP Offers Active Bystander Training

What is an active bystander? Think of it this way. You are in a public place and something happens that makes you uncomfortable. It could be a racial slur or a comment about someone wearing a hijab, anything directed against a person to make them fearful or embarrassed. If you witness such behavior, you are a bystander. If you do nothing, you are a passive bystander. You want to intervene, but how can you do so safely and effectively? Active bystander training equips you with tools to help you decide whether and how to intervene. It does not give you a formula or set of instructions, but instead helps you develop your ability to find on-the-spot solutions. Safety for all: the target, yourself, and the harmdoer, is stressed. Safe and effective intervention skills you into an active bystander. You become part of the solution, instead of remaining an onlooker.



Quabbin Mediation of Orange, Massachusetts, created Training Active Bystanders (TAB) training. They have developed training for police departments, school systems, social service agencies, court personnel, businesses, youth groups, houses of worship, and other community centers. This summer Quabbin taught 26 GSOP members and allies how to lead TAB trainings.

As recent events in Charlottesville have made clear, it is essential that each of us prepares to intervene in hate-based events. The TAB training is one way to learn these skills and reflect on how we might respond to such situations. With the addition of Aron DiBacco to GSOP staff, this training will be offered in multiple settings throughout New Hampshire. Please contact her at 603-668-8250 or adibacco@granitestateorganizing.org to set up such a training or learn where one might be offered.