

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**FOR LEADERSHIP IN THE SATANIC TEMPLE**  
**AND MEMBERS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE CHAPTERS AND OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED TEAMS**

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**National Council Announcement**  
**23 April 2017**

Re: Marches and Rallies

Greetings Chapter Heads!

This is long, but important. Please set it aside for when you have a good 5 minutes to sit down and read it.

In the upcoming days, you are all going to undoubtedly see some stuff in the Chapter Heads Facebook group about the official stance we have taken on the participation of chapters in larger protests and rallies.

This is important to many of you, because most of you have already been asking about organizing as chapters to participate in things like the Science March that will be coming up in April.

The national organization has taken the stance that official representation of The Satanic Temple at large marches and rallies organized by others is **not desirable**.

The bottom line is this:

- You MAY NOT be at a larger rally, whether it is to defend reproductive rights or to advocate for science or policy or whatever, as official representatives of The Satanic Temple.
- You MAY NOT present signs or logos that brand you as The Satanic Temple at such rallies, which could be construed as TST officially endorsing the rally or protest.
- You MAY go on your own or with friends, of course
- You MAY even be present clearly marked or indicated as Satanists, and may talk about how the beliefs espoused by the protestors align with your own personal beliefs as a Satanist -- it is only mention of The Satanic Temple that we do not want.

That is the summary. This is the "why":

1. These protests are coming in large and often, and we don't want to damage the effectiveness of our presence by ending up in the "oh, those people... they show up at everything" category
2. Large protests are often unfocused and get coopted by large numbers of different groups.... if the protest, which we have no control over, ends up getting play in the media

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as a chaotic mix of people with unspecified agendas and mixed messages, we want no part of that. (This is part of what hurt Occupy Wallstreet)

3. We don't want to contribute to a culture of people protesting but not following through: we want to lead by example, and have our political actions always linked to a very clear action plan: we are putting up this monument to try to force the 10 commandments statue to get taken down, or we are setting up this after school club to try to force christian clubs out of school, etc. We should only do things if they materially contribute to a particular action and aren't just about "raising awareness". Simple "presence at a protest" should not be a goal by itself.

To this end, before we consider participating in any protest, as TST Chapters, we should ask ourselves three things:

- 1) Does this issue directly affect us as Satanists?
- 2) Will our presence benefit the issue / outcome?
- 3) Do we know what the next steps will be in fixing the issue or problem?

If we cannot positively answer these three questions, we should not have a presence at the protest.

We would like to emphasize one last time: You are absolutely free to go to these things. You can even go and present yourselves as Satanists who support the issue. You simply cannot use the TST name or anything that would suggest an official affiliation with TST (such as having the tenets on a sign, etc) .

If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to your National Council Point of Contact. We want to make sure we maintain an open dialogue about this issue.

Sincerely,  
The Satanic Temple National Council