

Pacer Training – OWS DAWG

Only one trainer is needed, but it is helpful to have people with experience filling different pacing roles to facilitate breakouts.

1) Read march guidelines

*Let trainees know that it is the pacers job to remind demonstrators of these consensed upon points

Guidelines:

1. Stay together and keep moving.
2. Do not instigate physical conflict with cops or pedestrians.
3. Pacers in the front, middle and back are empowered to direct the march.
4. We use basic hand signals: Left, Right, Turn Around, and Mic Check. [Display what they look like!]
5. We respect a diversity of tactics, but be aware of how your actions affect the group.

2) List various pacing roles

*If this is a training is specific to an action remind folks what roles will need filling.

Roles: Scouts, Marshals, Front/Middle/Back Pacers, Runners, Comms

3) Give general tips for pacing

All pacers should be aware of the general area the march is going

Be confident stepping up and leading a group

Have nonviolent communication skills to use with march hi-jackers, panicking demonstrators, media, or police

Be capable of making decisions on the ground in an array of scenarios

4) Break off into different roles OR, if not possible, go through each role

*Don't talk the entire time, step back and let people participate either by voicing their experiences in marches, concerns, or questions.

1. Front: **Super** slow! Keep people behind front banner. Communicate with scouts. Know route and area well incase route needs to change according to changing geography/police presence. Slow down before crossing intersections but don't stop for lights.
2. Middle: Close gaps & keep march tight. Remind people that gaps allow space for nets, lines of cops/scooters, etc.
3. Back: Back banner is helpful, keep people in front of it. March may grow, make sure you remind marchers that cops like to pick off people who are straggling. Act as a buffer between stalking pigs and end of march.
4. Marshals: Stop at intersections, lights, turns, or any sort of bottleneck to hold traffic and guide people using hand signals in the direction of the march. Often necessary to act as a buffer between police/traffic and march when holding space.
5. Scouts: Bikes rule! Make sure you have a stable means of communication with pacers; best if not face-to-face, scouts are targeted! Look out for police presence, good streets to march on (one way streets against traffic), blockades/structures that would change pace of march and open up possibilities for the march.
6. Runners: Run along sides of march communicating messages between FMB pacers, especially important in letting front pacers know when march needs to speed up or slow down.

5) Regroup and report back

*Have someone, preferably someone with no pacing experience, relay back important points in the smaller conversations.

*Take a few minutes to discuss common problems (pacer identification, pacers being targeted, march hi-jackers, infiltrators, etc)

*Rehearse! Give hypothetical scenarios and ask trainees how they'd respond.