

PEACE POWER TOOLS

(www.peacepower.info)

Public Commitment: The PEACE POWER Pledge

Summary:

The Daily PEACE POWER pledge is a stated daily reminder of the PEACE POWER strategy's four core practices: Recognize Contributions and Successes, Act with Respect, Share Power to Build Community, and Make Peace. When the Daily PEACE POWER pledge is stated, an individual commits to actions consistent with the four PEACE POWER practices. The PEACE POWER pledge is designed to be used regularly, such as every morning in a classroom or at camp, or at each youth group meeting. Daily repetition of the PEACE POWER pledge helps the PEACE POWER language become integrated into the culture of a group.

Resources Needed:

- Printed copies of the Daily PEACE POWER Pledge (wallet sized plastic cards with the PEACE POWER Pledge are by contacting peacepower@peacepower.info)
- Blank public space on a painted wall, bulletin board or website

Implementation Steps:

- The Daily [PEACE POWER Pledge](#)¹ is posted, and then repeated by all on a daily basis:

Today I will Recognize Contributions and Successes of those around me.

Today I will Act with Respect – for myself, others, and the earth, giving up putdowns, threats, and weapons.

Today I will Share Power to Build Community, using my power and recognizing the power of others to contribute to the human web.

Today I will Make Peace by resolving conflicts, and healing broken relationships.

Today I will live PEACE POWER!

- The pledge can be mounted on the wall, printed on wallet-sized cards, displayed at meetings, posted on websites.
- When used regularly, the Daily PEACE POWER pledge serves as a simple reminder. It also may induce an element of cognitive dissonance if an individual's actions have not been consistent with commitments made, leading to a return to positive action.

Variations:

- Many organizations develop their own version of the Pledge, adapted for their own group, setting, and needs.

Rational and Evidence Base:

Pledges and other forms of public commitment reflect decisions made in connection with individual or group ideals and goals. Pledges tend to increase the likelihood of individual or group cooperation. In a public or group setting, a pledge often is made in conjunction with an agreement or promise to contribute (or not contribute) effort, time, money, or other tangible item rendering collective benefit.

There is evidence that open communication or public commitment among group members increases the probability that individuals will sacrifice self-interest. The available research indicates that public commitment helps individuals reframe ideals and behavior. This reframing can be reinforced through role-playing. Research also indicates that commitment can function as an aversive contingency associated with fears of social disapproval if the

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public pledge is not met. Further evidence on commitment shows that individuals have greater success maintaining behavior after an initial binding pledge has been fulfilled as compared to individuals involved in incentive only situations.

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¹The PEACE POWER Pledge. Source: Reprinted with permission from PEACE POWER Working Group, 1999. May be freely reprinted.