

Philosophy: SOS (Sexual Offense Support)

SOS believes in empowering individuals and groups to respond to survivors of sexual assault and intimate partner violence in ways that are confidential, empathic, and non-judgmental. We believe in treating all contacts with respect, dignity, and equality regardless of circumstances, race, color, gender, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, veteran status, age, or disability. We believe that it is possible to reduce sexual assault through education, understanding, and compassion.

Leadership

We Believe.....

- o in providing proactive leadership and advocacy concerning survivor healing and comprehensive prevention-focused education on the issues of sexual assault and intimate partner violence.
- o that we are one-part of a multi-disciplinary campus effort to address the complex issues of sexual assault, sexual harassment, and intimate partner violence.
- o that compassion and caring are integral to the services that we provide and to the interactions among the members of SOS.
- o that we have a responsibility to provide current information and ongoing training toward accomplishing our mission.

Education

We Believe.....

- o that preventing sexual assault and intimate partner violence is a personal, campus, community, and social responsibility.
- o in modeling education that is interactive and that clarifies the facts, myths, and misinformation about sexual assault.
- o in working toward knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors that are skill-based and effective in the prevention of sexual assault and intimate partner violence.
- o that education is more than didactic information-sharing and encompasses daily efforts to improve interpersonal communications, recognize hurtful advertising, and actively dispel myths.

Healing

We Believe.....

- o that the safety of a survivor comes first.
- o that offering a helping hand includes empowering survivors to make their own decisions and to choose from among available options and resources/referrals.
- o in supporting survivors in reclaiming their human rights.
- o that a support group encourage self-help and healing.
- o that the 24-hour beeper service maintains anonymity and is a source of continuity for survivors.
- o that education needs to be provided to survivors and family members / friends.

Membership

We Believe.....

- o in the operation of SOS via an organizational structure that is non-hierarchical and that uses collaborative decision-making as the norm.
- o that the success of SOS in effectively meeting its mission depends on the maturity, responsibility, and commitment of individual members.
- o that intra-group support is provided through sensitivity to individual member's needs, high quality/comprehensive training, and expectation of accountability.
- o that SOS's history of strong service comes from the "whole being greater than the sum of the parts" via excellent team work.