



SQUAD UP GUIDE



WHY CREATE OR JOIN A SQUAD?

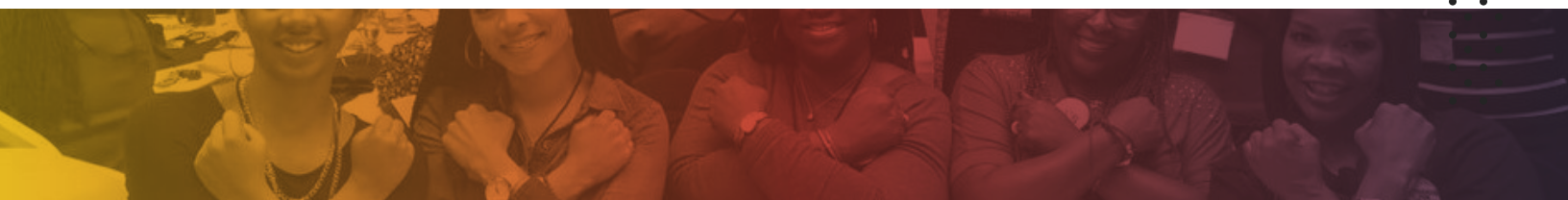
Remember prosecutors are the most powerful actors in our criminal justice system and every day they make decisions that impact the lives of our families and communities -- from whether to press charges, to setting bail, or to sentencing decisions -- prosecutors have influence in every aspect of the criminal justice system. Despite the power prosecutors hold over our communities and the criminal justice system, they have mostly flown under the radar. You can help change that.

Color Of Change has been leading campaigns across the country with partners and allies to hold prosecutors accountable to the communities they represent -- from Chicago to Houston we've seen that when communities organize and put pressure on prosecutors we effect real change.

We are building a nationwide movement to end the criminalization of Black and Brown people. And we need your help. We working to build Squads across the country that will organize, take action and demand prosecutors work towards justice and ending mass incarceration. This is not a small task. It will require a lot of work for every person that chooses to get involved, but we know that our communities and our people are worth it. We can hold our prosecutors accountable by showing up to their offices and pushing them to be responsive to community concerns and needs. We have the ability to fundamentally shift power and incentive structures in prosecutor offices and reduce incarceration and harm in our communities.

Are you ready to join the movement?

Find an Existing Squad near you or Create a Squad!



CREATE A SQUAD

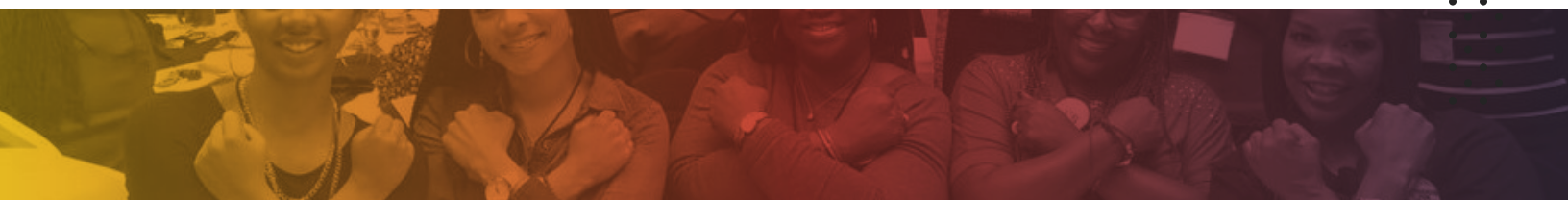
Who should you recruit to be a part of your squad?

- Think about recruiting people that you trust. There are certain people that you share everything with and they almost always come through for you. They are your “go to” folks. Start with them.
- Invite people who share your values.
- Invite people who are close to you and have a track record of showing up when it counts.
- Talk to people who are nearby. You don’t have to know where they stand on the issue, but talking with them about what you’re working on and extending the opportunity for them to join will help you maximize your recruitment efforts.
- Post a message on your Facebook page or other social media sites. Let folks know you’re starting a squad to work on ending mass incarceration, building safe communities, and holding your local prosecutor accountable to the community they were elected to serve.
- You’ll get updates from The Prosecutor Project from others in your community interested in squadding up for prosecutor accountability.
- Invite the rockstars! These are the community folks who shine in almost everything that they do. They know all of the local folks, they have connections to the businesses, their family might have deep ties in your neighborhood. They’re great to have on your team because they’re sure to talk about what you’re doing with others.
- Consider groups of people that may be most affected by the issue. Reach out to them to ask them to participate.
- Remember that everyone is a potential volunteer and everyone is a potential recruit!

What should your squad do?

First, you should organize a house party, brunch or other gathering for your team. These gatherings means for getting to know more about why a person is interested in joining your squad. It’s a time to share your personal story about why you’re choosing to engage in the work and motivate them to share their reason for potentially joining your team. House parties are largely social and while you may do some strategizing it’s more about building strong relationships to ensure that the work ahead is on a solid foundation. Organizing a house party or meeting will also give you and your new team a chance to learn more about the issue of mass incarceration and prosecutor accountability and begin to discuss first steps on how to take collective action.

Check out our House Party Tool-Kit to learn more about organizing your first team meeting.



When should my team meet?

You should organize your first house party within 2 weeks of reaching out to folks. You want to make sure to get your team started right away to keep momentum and energy.

Remember!

Great teams have some common characteristics. The most important thing that all teams have is excitement and energy. It's that feel good vibe you get when you're in the presence of others. Be sure to build celebration into the core structure of your team. People come back because they like being around the people in the group. This is important because people want to be together and do something with purpose with other folks that are fun.

Resources for Building and Expanding Your Squad

- House Party Tool-Kit
- Visit Your Prosecutor's Office
- Host a Brunch

