



Rainbow Youth Summit

SAFESCHOOLS DESERT CITIES

Non-profit Status

Safe Schools Desert Cities relies solely on the support of the community to make our programming and events possible. Safe Schools is run entirely by volunteers, and has no paid staff. Every dollar donated to SSDC is carefully spent and directly impacts the lives of local LGBTQI youth. Our only overhead cost is insurance.

Safe Schools Desert Cities is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Donations

Donations, including those for awards and scholarships, may be made on our website. Simply go to www.safeschoolsdc.org and click on **Donate Today**.

You will have two choices:

Pride Prom and Events or **Scholarships and Award Fund**. Have your debit or credit card ready. We'll send you a receipt instantaneously and a longer THANK YOU very soon.

Scholarship and Awards Program

Safe Schools Desert Cities presents approximately **\$20,000 in awards and scholarships** to LGBTQI youth each year.

Burton-May Pride Awards are intended to provide support for educational expenses following graduation from high school and typically are used for tuition, on campus living expenses, books and other educational materials, computers used for course work, and other costs directly related to enrollment in an educational program.

Financial Assistance Awards are for smaller amounts such as application fee, deposits, test preparation, living facility deposits. Complete scholarship and award program details, including applications are on our website.

Organization and Business Contributors

These organizations, businesses, and individuals have been a source of continuing support through the years. Be one of them!

PFLAG

CVS Pharmacy

PS Pride and the Harvey Milk

Diversity Breakfast

LULU (Pride Prom co-presenter)

Eight4Nine – advisors luncheon and workshop, etc.

Brian Wansek/Bella da Ball and the Social Scene (along with many individuals)

Riverside County Sheriff's Office volunteers – Providing a safe and secure environment during events

Desert Promotions

Peter East @ Points East

Graphic Design

Palm Springs Air Museum

Cardiff Transportation

Anderson Children's Fund

Regional Access Project

Palm Springs Rotary

Desert Business Association

Desert Stonewall Democrats

The Center

HRC and EQCA

El Rancho Vista Estates

Gay Straight Alliances Associated with Safe Schools

Amistad High School	Indio Middle School
Banning High School	La Quinta High School
Beaumont High School	Nellie Coffman Middle School
Cathedral City High School	Painted Hills Middle School
Coachella Valley High School	Palm Desert High School
College of the Desert	Palm Springs High School
Desert Mirage High School	Rancho Mirage High School
Desert Ridge Academy	Raymond Cree Middle School
Desert Springs Middle School	San Geronio Middle School
Fontana High School	Shadow Hills High School
Heritage High School	Thomas Jefferson Academy
Imperial Valley College	Twentynine Palms High School
Indio High School	Workman Middle School

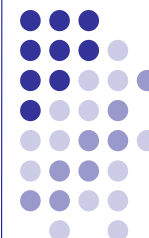


Safe Schools Desert Cities

1464 E. Andreas Rd
Palm Springs CA 92262

SAFESCHOOLS
DESERT CITIES

Phone: 760.218.9400
Email: info@safeschoolsdc.org
Website: www.safeschoolsdc.org



Our Mission:

Safe Schools Desert Cities empowers area Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex youth (LGBTQI+), their allies, and GSA advisors and offers opportunities

that foster a sense of community and individual growth by providing education, guidance, advocacy, resources, recreational activities and opportunities for self expression.

Who We Are

Our nine member board of directors is passionate about the work we do with the GSAs, LGBTQI youth, their allies and their advisors. Sometimes we feel like we are herding cats because each school's GSA is different, each advisor sees their role differently, no two districts have the same calendar, transportation costs keep rising, and getting permission to put up a poster can be a near nightmare. All of it makes our endeavor more meaningful. Read more about the board on our website.

Individuals wishing to assist as a volunteer follow a process which includes application, interview, and background check (including Live Scan). Detailed information is available on the website.

All of our events are smoking, vaping, drug, and alcohol free.

Confidentiality: All information regarding GSA members, allies, and GSA advisors is strictly confidential. We do not share information with other organizations or individuals. GSA youth and advisors may contact us to view the password-protected photo gallery of Safe Schools Desert Cities albums on our website.

What We Do

Safe Schools Desert Cities works directly with the Gay Straight Alliances (GSAs) at 14 high schools and 9 middle schools in the desert area including the Coachella Valley, the High Desert, the San Geronio Pass and beyond. Each year Safe Schools Desert Cities presents:

- **Pride Prom** – over 500 LGBTQIA Youth attended in 2017.
- **Rainbow Youth Summit** – about 150 LGBTQIA youth participate in a day of large and small sessions and entertainment.

Other events include the following:

- **San Diego Pride Parade and Festival** where each year 50 SSDC youth walk with Palm Springs Pride.
- **Over 400 youth walk in Palm Springs Pride Parade**, the largest youth contingent anywhere.



- **Your Zone Youth Zone** at the Palm Springs Pride Festival. More than 800 visits last year.
- **The Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast** attended by over 200 youth each year.
- **Bus tours** to the Los Angeles area to visit UCLA, the city of West Hollywood, the Museum of Tolerance, and other destinations.
- Participating in and speaking at **local rallies and marches**.
- Youth leadership training at a bi-annual **Leadership and Empowerment Camp**.
- **Spirit Day** and **Day of Silence** planned by each GSA.

In Addition

- All of our activities are free to participants, including transportation, except Pride Prom which is minimal and on a can/can't pay basis. No one is ever turned away because of cost.
- We coordinate with Palm Springs Pride each year to honor an **outstanding Desert area GSA and advisor**.
- Representatives of the Safe Schools Desert Cities Board **visit the GSA's** throughout the area as often as time and schedules permit.
- We maintain **close contact with the advisors** and are often called on for advice regarding specific GSA or other concerns at school sites.
- Safe Schools Desert Cities welcomes the opportunity to **work with students and families when school districts or school sites do not follow California laws** that provide protection and support for LGBTQI students. We assist youth and their parents when bullying surfaces at school and when cyber-bullying follows them home.



GSA Students attend the Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast at the Palm Springs Convention Center.