



Students For Liberty

Libertarian Campus Calendar Spring 2009



A Template For Student Groups

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Introduction

The purpose of the *Libertarian Campus Calendar: Spring 2009* is to provide a template of activities for student organizations to follow throughout the school year. By no means should this calendar be taken as an exact description of what student organizations should do. Not only are several different events recommended for the same date that you may choose from, but there are certainly other great dates in the history of libertarian thought that deserve to be celebrated, which we simply forgot, as well as local events that are meaningful to your area. In addition, any good student organization will host additional events bringing in speakers whenever possible; engaging in debates with other organizations on campus; and performing countless other events such as movie nights, monthly socials, campus demonstrations, and other events. Don't be afraid to get creative or take a page from other student groups' playbooks: have a mixer with another organization or take a trip to a local political debate. History is filled with significant libertarian events. This calendar should be taken as a sampling of the many possible activities available to libertarian student organizations.

Monthly Themes: These are merely recommended. Some of them tap into larger, more well-accepted themes on campus that your organization can piggy-back and gain recognition by highlighting the libertarian side of the theme. Your organization does not need to make its monthly theme explicit, but you also could theme months to increase visibility.

Monthly Socials: Social events are great for student groups for several reasons. *First*, they build bonds and friendships, and when members are friends with other members, they will be more likely to be involved in the organization. *Second*, this is a great way to attract new members in a safe, non-abrasive environment. *Third*, social gatherings provide a forum for informal diffusion of information about opportunities. Students are more willing to look into an [Institute for Humane Studies seminar](#) or [Cato University](#) after hearing about it at a social than if they just got a spam message from your organization's president.

Opportunities: This calendar does not include dates of opportunities from other organizations because it is designed to provide a template for campus activities rather than individual student engagements. Please check SFL's [List of Opportunities](#) for individual opportunities.

Recommended Organizations: There are many organizations out there that promote liberty. We did not list all of them in this calendar due to space constraints. However, we recommend you look at the [SFL List of Friends](#) to find other organizations that may support you in your cause to promote liberty on campus. *Note:* Many of the organizations listed hold differing philosophies and world views and may not endorse one another, nor does their inclusion in this publication mean that SFL endorses all of their views.

Comments and Feedback: If you have any comments, feedback, or suggestions for how to improve the Libertarian Campus Calendar, please send an email to info@studentsforliberty.org with the subject "Libertarian Campus Calendar Feedback". This calendar is a collaborative effort, and we welcome your advice to make future editions more valuable for students.



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January						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2 Barry Goldwater's Birthday	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 MLK Day	20 Inauguration Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Theme of the Month: Human Rights

January requires that you kick off the second semester with a bang. There is no topic that invigorates students more or rouses the human spirit any greater than the issue of human rights. Bring the issue of basic rights to the forefront of students' minds and provide opportunities for students to explore the meaning and value of protecting rights.

Activities: *Human Rights Week.* Dedicate a full week to human rights. Not only does this have the benefit of bringing outside organizations in and allowing you to partner with a number of other student organizations, but it allows you to cover many topics in one fell swoop and try out a variety of activities for your organization. Some specific ideas for how to run this week:

1. *Theme each day of the week* regarding a different right.
 - a. Monday- Right to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness
 - b. Tuesday- Right to Vote
 - c. Wednesday- Right to Property
 - d. Thursday- Human Rights as Universal Rights
 - e. Friday- Right to Associate
2. *Speaker events each night.* Bring in speakers based on the theme of the day either from a national organization, a local think tank, or even a professor on campus.
3. *Movie screening* on the topic of the day.
4. *Hold a Career Fair* that introduces students to the many opportunities available to promote liberty as a full time job. Bring in organizations to talk about what they do and hand out material to students on the many organizations that exist. Find out what libertarian state-based think tank is in your state by checking out the State Policy Network's listing. Also, reach out to SFL to find people who can visit.



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5. *Debate students in public* on the theme of the day. This sort of one-on-one grassroots action can engage students in a manner that is often unseen today. Get press coverage, and hand out fliers as you just engage students on the main walkway of campus.
6. *Host a social*. As part of the right to freely assemble, host a large gathering or social event to illustrate the necessity and value of this freedom. Encourage students to discuss any issue on their minds, be it liberty-related or otherwise, and provide free food and discussion topics for attendees. Advertise as a collaborative effort with groups that might not otherwise be aligned with your organization, and this highlights many of the advantages of free association.



2nd - Barry Goldwater's Birthday

Throw a party to celebrate Goldwater's birthday. Watch clips of his acceptance speech at the 1964 Republican National Convention and remember: "Extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice. And moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue."



19th - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Celebrate one of the most notable advocates of liberty in the 20th century. Martin Luther King, Jr. sought to end legal racial segregation in America and did so through nonviolent resistance to government tyranny. When celebrating this day, be sure to advocate both of these virtues that MLK espoused. *Link to Theme*: If you have the opportunity, remind people that there once were laws banning boycotts of goods and companies. In the same way that such bans are reprehensible, requiring that people purchase goods, abide by forced labor associations, and lose their ability to challenge the government is also reprehensible.



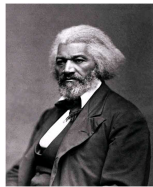
Social Theme: Favorite Law or Theorem

Have everyone dress up as either their favorite law or theorem. Some common favorites include "A is A", "the invisible hand", "Coase's Theorem", etc. Let people be creative and maybe give out a prize to the best costume.



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February						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2 Ayn Rand's Birthday	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 International Conference	21 International Conference	22 International Conference
23	24	25	26	27	28	



Theme of the Month: Black History Month

February is well known as Black History Month, and many other student groups on your campus will be hosting events related to this theme. Your organization can do the same and use it an opportunity to co-host events with other groups with whom you may normally not engage.

Sample Events:

1. *Abuse of Police Powers Forum*- Host a forum that centers on the abuse of police power and the need to respect basic civil liberties throughout the judicial process. You may partner with the Black Student Association for this event and discuss with them how excessive powers granted to the police allow them to engage in discrimination and racial profiling. If there has been an abuse of campus police power, use that as a starting point for the forum to take off. Emphasize that the only way to end these racist practices, though, is to take away the authority of police that gives them enough leeway to do as they wish.
2. *End the War on Drugs Forum*- The “War on Drugs” (which should instead be called by its real name: prohibition) not only seeks to dictate the way that individuals ought to lead their lives, but has also been a dismal failure by any measure. What’s more, prohibition disproportionately impacts racial minorities with a large majority of individuals arrested and convicted for violating drug laws being from minority groups. *Try to remain focused on the issue as a civil rights one, not as a drug legalization issue.*

Organizations:

1. **American Civil Rights Institute** (www.acri.org) – “The American Civil Rights Institute is a national civil rights organization created to educate the public on the harms of racial and gender preferences.”



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2. **Law Enforcement Against Prohibition** (www.leap.cc) – The mission of LEAP is to reduce the multitude of unintended harmful consequences resulting from fighting the war on drugs and to lessen the incidence of death, disease, crime, and addiction by ultimately ending drug prohibition.
3. **National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws** (<http://norml.org>) – NORML’s mission is to move public opinion sufficiently to achieve the repeal of marijuana prohibition so that the responsible use of cannabis by adults is no longer subject to penalty.
4. **Students for Sensible Drug Policy** (<http://ssdp.org>) – SSDP is an international grassroots network of students who are concerned about the impact drug abuse has on our communities, but who also know that the War on Drugs is failing our generation and our society.
5. **Marijuana Policy Project** (www.mpp.org) – “MPP and MPP Foundation envision a nation where marijuana is legally regulated similarly to alcohol, marijuana education is honest and realistic, and treatment of problem marijuana users is non-coercive and geared toward reducing harm.”
6. **Drug Policy Alliance** (www.drugpolicy.org) – “DPA Network is the nation’s leading organization working to end the war on drugs. We envision new drug policies based on science, compassion, health and human rights and a just society in which the fears, prejudices and punitive prohibitions of today are no more.”



2nd - Ayn Rand’s Birthday

Throw a party to celebrate Rand’s birthday. If your members are enthusiastic readers, host a book talk or discussion on objectivism or a particular literary work.



20th – 22nd - International SFL Conference

The second annual [International Students For Liberty Conference](#) is being held from February 20th-22nd at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. This is a great way to meet other students dedicated to liberty, listen to some of the pivotal leaders of liberty today, and take students from your organization on a trip that will form bonds and rouse enthusiasm.



Social Theme: Favorite Book

Have everyone bring their favorite pro-liberty book to share with others. It’s a great conversation starter!



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March						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Theme of the Month: Women's History Month



March is recognized as Women's History Month, and many other student groups on your campus will be hosting events related to this theme. Given the existence of many women leaders in the cause of liberty, this is a great opportunity to highlight their work and reach out to a demographic that may be underrepresented in your organization.

Sample Events:

1. *V-Day Awareness*- Whenever V-Day is being hosted on your campus, use this as an opportunity to reach out to women about how *individual* liberty protects the rights of women greater than any collectivist dogma.
2. *Women's Self Defense Night*- Host an event about the need for women to be able to defend themselves with a demonstration from a local instructor on the benefits of gun ownership and effective gun use.
3. *Right to Your Body Night*- Bring in a speaker or host a forum on the rights of women to do what they wish with their body. The government has no place dictating who may have intercourse with one another or the terms upon which that act occurs.

Organizations:

1. **iFeminists** (www.ifeminists.com) – A project of the [Independent Institute](http://www.independentinstitute.org), ifeminists.com is a resource to learn more about the impact of women on the libertarian movement and the role that individualism plays in a truly feminist philosophy.
2. **Feminists For Free Expression** (www.ffeusa.org) – “Feminists for Free Expression (FFE) is a group of diverse feminists working to preserve the individual’s right to see, hear and produce materials of her choice without the intervention of the state ‘for her own good’.”
3. **Capitalist Chicks** (<http://capitalistchicks.com>) – Capitalist Chicks believes “that Capitalism is the only moral and practical economic system.” The organization seeks to “change the perceptions of who and what a capitalist is”, taking it away from the evil, greedy businessman to a real world, open category that men and women both enjoy.



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4. **Your school's Women Center or Women's Studies Department** – If you want to try accessing university funding or pushing the limit with the support for women in liberty, contacting these organizations will surely put you on their radar.
5. **National Rifle Association** (<http://www.nrahq.org/women/index.asp>) – there are particular events and classes for female gun-owners that may be of interest to your members.



Social Theme: 'Banned' Party

So many things in our daily lives have been banned at one point or another in history. Require everyone to bring at least one item that has been banned in history to get in (e.g. a copy of *Fahrenheit 451*, gold, an Elvis CD, etc.).

Important Note: SFL does not encourage anyone to break the law, so people should only bring items that have been banned at some point in history, *not things that are currently banned.*



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April						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Thomas Jefferson's Birthday	14	15 Tax Day	16 Anniversary of Tiananmen Square protest	17	18	19
20	21	22 Earth Day	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



Theme of the Month: Economic Freedom

Like December, April means that school is rapidly coming to an end and students are distracted by upcoming finals and summer plans. This month needs to be big to maintain interest. With upcoming dates like Tax Day and Earth Day, this month is ripe for celebrating economic freedom and the benefits of capitalism. Find projects and events that appeal to free market issues and limited government intervention in people's economic lives as the reciprocal side of social freedom.



13th - Thomas Jefferson's Birthday

Throw a party to celebrate Jefferson's birthday and honor one of the greatest advocates of liberty in the modern era. Just be careful, dancing in public places today may lead to being arrested.¹



15th - Tax Freedom Day

Today may rouse the greatest amount of support for liberty from traditional opponents of any day during the year because it is the one day that people see the tangible effect of government taking away their money. There are many ways to highlight abuses of government taxation that you can do:

1. *Stress Relief*- Your group can provide a stress relief for individuals who just paid their taxes. Station a group of students outside your local post office with a punching bag that

¹ On April 13th, 2008, Brooke Oberwetter was arrested for dancing in public at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial in Washington DC as part of a birthday party for Jefferson. Two of SFL's Executive Board members witnessed how singing "Happy Birthday" and dancing to an iPod are grounds for arrest. For more details about this incident, search for information on "The Jefferson 1".



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people can hit, small breakable items they can smash, or even get an old used car and a baseball bat and let them go nuts. This last idea can also be used as a fundraiser, i.e., charge \$5 to hit the car three times.

2. *Protest*- Hold a demonstration that highlights the excesses and abuses of the IRS. List off all the ridiculous earmarks. Compare government spending today to spending a decade ago. Make this highly visible to bring attention to the sadness of this day.

Organizations:

1. **Tax Foundation** (www.taxfoundation.org) – The mission of the Tax Foundation is to educate taxpayers about sound tax policy and the size of the tax burden borne by Americans at all levels of government.
2. **National Taxpayers Union** (www.ntu.org) – The National Taxpayer’s Union’s “Number One job has been helping to protect every single American’s right to keep what they’ve earned.”
3. **Americans for Tax Reform** (www.atr.org) – “ATR serves as a national clearinghouse for the grassroots taxpayers’ movement by working with approximately 800 state and county level groups.”



16th - Anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Protests

In 1989, thousands of students took to the streets in Tiananmen Square to protest the dictatorial Communist regime. They were calling for liberalization of the country’s policies and specifically for democracy in China. The protests are better known as the Tiananmen Square Massacre for the government’s brutal tactics in silencing the people and killing many in the process.



20th - Drug Awareness Day

April 20th is well known among college students. This is an opportune time to raise awareness about the War on Drugs by handing out literature, bringing in speakers, or rallying against drug prohibition. Note: Holding an event on this day may not be taken seriously, but it is also a very well known day that you can piggy-back on to garner attention.



22nd - Earth Day

Earth Day is often treated by the opponents of liberty to rally against capitalism and feed on people’s natural support for the planet that houses us, as well as to restrict the rights of those they don’t like. However, there are many ways to combat the myths propagated today.

1. *Participate in an Environmental Fair*- Many campuses host Environmental Fairs where student groups and outside organizations are allowed to reserve tables and display information on environmental dangers along with proposed solutions. Find out how to register for this Fair and have your group host a table on Free Market Environmentalism.



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Distribute literature on the failures of government regulation to protect the environment and maintain humanity's quality of life. Expose Fair participants to the idea that capitalism is the solution to environmental hazards: more capitalism with the unfettered ability to produce new inventions and find alternative energy sources will do the job.

2. *Host a Free Market Environmentalism rally*- If no Fair is going on during Earth Day on your campus, you can be proactive and host a rally for the environment yourself. Show your campus that capitalists care about the environment as much as anyone else and are more willing to do something to protect it than so-called environmentalists. Distribute literature on capitalism and the environment.
3. *Screen Ghostbusters*- If no one is celebrating Earth Day on your campus, you can screen one of the most anti-Environmental Protection Agency movies ever made: *Ghostbusters*. Not only does this movie embrace the power of capitalism to save the world from the apocalypse, but it takes jabs at anti-capitalist mindsets and regulations the entire way through, especially poking fun at the EPA.

Organizations:

1. **Property and Environment Research Center** (www.perc.org) – “PERC is the nation’s oldest and largest institute dedicated to improving environmental quality through markets and property rights.”
2. **Competitive Enterprise Institute** (www.cei.org) – “CEI is dedicated to advancing the principles of free enterprise and limited government. CEI believes that individuals are best helped not by government intervention, but by making their own choices in a free marketplace.”



Social Theme: Senior Farewells

With the end of the school year approaching, don't have the same old social event. Take the time to thank the seniors in your organization who have dedicated their years to promoting liberty and have a farewell in their honor. This could be as simple as a nice dinner or as elaborate as a roast. Do whatever fits your organization and the seniors best. If possible, get them a small gift (e.g. a book, a mug, etc.) that will make them feel loved.



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May						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1 May Day	2	3
4	5 Anniversary: John Scopes Arrest	6	7	8 F.A. Hayek's Birthday	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Theme of the Month: Globalization



The advancement of a worldwide economy and increasing interaction and interconnection between peoples is one of the great achievements of liberty today. Yet some campuses experience harsh protests and challenges to globalization on May 1st, so take this month to celebrate one of the uniquely international causes of liberty. Some schools may have already finished classes and are wrapping up exams by this point. If you are going to hold any events, make sure that they will attract students.



1st - May Day

May 1st is treated as a day to challenge globalization on many campuses. Use this day to hand out pro-globalization literature, celebrate the advent of worldwide connections and the need to respect human rights not just at home, but abroad as well.

Resources:

1. Johan Norberg's *In Defense of Global Capitalism*- Terrific book on the benefits of globalization and the need for greater capitalism around the world.



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5th - Anniversary of John Scopes' Arrest

While many students may be studying for finals or celebrating Cinco de Mayo, don't miss this opportunity to remember the day that John Scopes was arrested in 1925 for teaching evolution in a public school. Beginning what is now infamously known as the "Scopes Monkey Trial" a high school teacher was arrested and prosecuted for teaching sound science and challenging the authority of traditional religious doctrine in school.

1. Screen *Inherit the Wind*, a classic movie that provides a fictionalized account of what happened during the trial.
2. Host a forum on the status of the separation of church and state in school. Bring up issues like intelligent design and the *Kitzmiller v. Dover* Supreme Court case that on December 20, 2005 ruled against the inclusion of intelligent design in public school curricula.



8th - F.A. Hayek's Birthday

Throw a party or read sections of *The Road to Serfdom* to celebrate Hayek's birthday.



Social Theme: For Liberty!

Say goodbye to everyone as the year comes to a close. This is the last social, so just have a good time celebrating your accomplishments and your hopes for next year. Give out awards for members with highest attendance, most successful event, most pro-liberty activism, etc.