

Tips

For holding a community meeting or rally

1. Come up with a turn-out strategy:
 - a. Get 5-10 committed people to help you.
 - b. Phone calls and word-of-mouth invitations work better than anything else. You can also use flyers and posters.
 - c. Choose a meeting time when the most people can come and a place where people feel comfortable.
 - d. Use the draw of special guests: Superintendent, county judge and quorum court members, state representative, senator, ACRE leaders.
 - e. Be compelling about why people should show up: We need to save our school!
 - f. At the time of meeting, have a sign-in sheet that gets people's phone number and e-mail address so they can be contacted for action during the session.
 - g. Give handout Make Your Voice Heard at the Capitol.

2. Suggested agenda:

Welcome
Introduction of special guests
Presentations –
Facts about rural schools
Facts about rural Arkansas
How to reach your legislator
Model call to legislator
Brief statements by special guests
Close: Appeal by students to save their school