

Save the Kids Mission Statement



STK is a fully-volunteer national grass-roots organization, rooted in hip hop activism and transformative justice, dedicated to alternatives to and the end of the incarceration of all youth and the school to prison pipeline.

Brief History

Founded in 2009, four African-American youth (Jason, Ali, Jarrah, and Amond) in Hillbrook Juvenile Detention Facility chose “Save the Kids” and its mission, while participating in a group discussion about the need for an organization to keep them from being trapped in the juvenile justice system. They needed, as one kid stated, “to be saved instead of thrown away as trash.” That statement speaks volumes.

Structure

Save the Kids is managed by a board of directors, which is made up of the national coordinators. Each regional chapter throughout the U.S. is responsible for

- (1) organizing one event a month,
- (2) attending monthly conferences calls, and
- (3) organizing for national weeks of action.

Campaigns to Achieve Our Mission

1

End Punitive Discipline in Schools, which includes, but not limited to in and out of school suspension and detention, police in schools, metal detectors, police searches, cameras in schools, shaming, and restraints.

2

End Criminalization of Youth, which includes, but not limited to making laws against youth culture such as dress, music, dance, skateboarding, and bmx.

3

End Policing of Youth, which includes, but not limited to the social control of youth via cameras in neighbors, stop and frisk, curfews, gang injunctions, and truancy laws.

Four Programs

1

Advocacy to defend the needs of youth caught in or targets of the juvenile justice system, by organizing demonstrations in society, including the National Week of Action Against Incarcerating Youth and the National Week of Action Against School Pushout.

2

Public Education to society to share the needs of youth caught in or targets of the juvenile justice system, including the Annual Transformative Justice Conference and the Annual Hip Hop Activism Conference.

3

Youth Workshops in juvenile detention facilities, community centers, and schools to listen to the needs of youth caught in or targets of the juvenile justice system.

4

Publications include Poetry Behind the Walls Book Series, Journal of Hip Hop Studies, Hip Hop Studies and Activism Book Series, and Transformative Justice Journal to promote the needs of youth caught in or targets of the juvenile justice system.

Focus

Save the Kids focuses on supporting all youth, however the four groups most often caught in the school to prison pipeline and juvenile justice system are (1) Youth of Color, (2) Youth with Disabilities, (3) LGBTTQQAI Youth, and (4) Youth who are economically disadvantaged.

Financial Support 1. Individual Donations 2. Membership 3. Events 4. Merchandise 5. Grants

Key Accomplishments

2018 - Forced City of Durango, CO to stop being unconstitutional for decades and now Durango provides jury trials.

2017 - Ended out of school suspension in Minneapolis.

2012 - Founded the National Week of Action Against Incarcerating Youth.

2011 - Closed down a juvenile detention facility in NY.

2010 - 1st Hip Hop Music Studio in a juvenile detention facility in the U.S.

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2008 - Founded the only on going poetry book, Poetry Behind the Walls, dedicated to writing and art by youth incarcerated.

Get Involved

Start or Join a Chapter
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