NYC-DSA 101

DSA Guidelines for Respectful Discussion

1. Assume good faith of your fellow comrades
2. Know whether you need to “step up” or “step back”
3. Recognize and respect others’ feelings, background, and cultural differences
4. We have “one mic” so do not interrupt or speak while others are talking
5. Respect the facilitators
6. Have fun!

Agenda

1. Ourselves: Introductions - 20 minutes
    - Name, pronouns, where you came from
    - Are you a member of NYC-DSA?
    - What brought you here? Why are you curious about DSA?
    - What do you hope to take away from this 101?
2. Our Politics: What is Socialism? (What is Capitalism? 😮) - 20 minutes
    - Ideology - an ideological commitment to an egalitarian society
    - Analysis - a sociological theory based on class analysis
    - Action - a theory of change based in class struggle
3. Our Organizing: What is DSA? - 20 minutes
    - Our politics - labor, class formation, and the party surrogate
    - Our community – social groups, education, choir, intramural sports
    - Our structure – branches, working groups, national DSA
    - Our people – mass membership volunteer org, dues, elected leadership
4. Our Wins: Eight Years of Hard Work - 15 minutes
5. Why DSA? - 5 minutes
6. What can you do?
    - Join DSA if you are not a member, organize with us!
    - Canvass for one of our endorsed candidates!
    - Find a buddy to attend an event with!

Join DSA

Tax the Rich

Next Steps

Linktree



Local Events



Member Guide



FAQs, Structure, and Processes

DSA National vs NYC-DSA: The Democratic Socialists of America is a national organization with dozens of local chapters. NYC-DSA is the largest chapter with over 11,000 members.

Dues & Membership: To be a member of NYC-DSA, you pay monthly dues (socialists.nyc/join). Members vote to elect our leadership, decide our platform and priorities, as well as endorse political campaigns; there is no board or shareholders. We are entirely funded by members and we do not accept or solicit donations from billionaires, corporations, or PACs.

Branches: The chapter is divided up into geographic branches that members are sorted into based on their zip code. Branches hold monthly general meetings and are a good place to get plugged in. The leadership of a branch is called its Organizing Committee (OC), and is elected by members of the branch annually. Find your branch at socialists.nyc/branches.

Working Groups (WGs): Working groups are chapter bodies dedicated to organizing around certain functions or issues. Along with the Electoral Working Group and Labor Working Group, we have functional bodies like the Political Education WG, and issue based bodies like the EcoSocialist, Anti-War, and Trans Rights Working Group.

Priority Campaigns: The chapter designates a few of our campaigns which are considered strategic priorities as Priority Campaigns. All of our electoral campaigns are priority campaigns, and the union rank and file project is also a permanent priority. Currently, we have 3 additional priority campaigns: Trans Rights and Bodily Autonomy, the Build Public Renewables Act, and Green Social Housing.

Steering Committee (SC): The SC is the main elected leadership body that runs the chapter day-to-day. Members of the SC include the two Chairs of the chapter, administrative positions like Comms chair or Membership chair, as well as a representative of each branch.

Socialists in Office (SIO): The SIO committee is a combination of the SC and the 9 officials we have elected to the NYC City Council, State Assembly, and State Senate. This body meets weekly and coordinates on what the DSA elected officials should be doing and how they should vote.

Conventions: NYC DSA has a convention every 2 years where we debate the highest level questions on our political orientation, strategy, and structure. DSA members elect delegates to the convention in their branches. Any member can run to be a delegate.

Citywide Leadership Committee (CLC): The Citywide Leadership Committee is the highest decision-making body in between the biennial conventions. Like convention, delegates to the CLC are elected at the branch level, and any member can run to be a delegate.