

Convoy for Life

Rationale

Marches for Life across the country have been cancelled in the wake of COVID-19 and restrictions prohibiting large gatherings. We appreciate that many of the organizing committees for these events have quickly adapted to online formats that feature virtual speakers and prayers, such an online forum still misses out on pro-lifers making a visible and powerful statement that an in-person March for Life provides.

Proposal

In lieu of the restrictions in place because of COVID-19 and the inability to organize the March for Life events this year, local ARPA chapters or groups should propose local Convoys for Life that run throughout the country on Thursday, May 14th.

What is a Convoy for Life?

Essentially, a convoy is a group of vehicles that travel on a predetermined route through a town or city with the purpose of drawing attention to a specific cause or purpose. During this pandemic we have seen these used for things such as birthday celebrations, appreciation for healthcare workers, etc.

A Convoy for Life would be similar except share a message of life to all those who witness the parade of vehicles. Imagine a series of vehicles decked out with signs, decals, balloons, flags, or even paint sharing the pro-life message – in a very similar way as we would bring our signs to the traditional March for Life. We want to be one large banner or parade that proclaims the value of life!

How to organize a Convoy for Life?

There are the main steps that would be required to organize a Convoy for Life:

- Check whether your local municipalities have issued any recent guidelines or bylaws due to COVID-19 around vehicle convoys.
- Plan a route. We suggest that a starting point could be the parking lot of a large church or a local mall. As you plan a route, consider passing a local government office, a hospital, or a hospice. The ideal route should be about half an hour to an hour's drive, have as few intersections or stop lights as possible, and yet be highly visible to the general public.

- Pick a time. We suggest that the Convoy for Life start at 3:00 PM local time. This is a time when school aged children should be finished with their studies and it may be a time when many people are getting off of work. It is also a time of day that will both maximize attendance yet also minimize traffic problems.
- Advertise your local Convoy for Life. This can be done using email, Facebook events, church lists, etc.
- Request that everyone who plans to attend the Convoy register and reserve in advance so that you can anticipate the size of the Convoy.
- Put together instructions for those attending your local Convoy for Life. These would include the start location, time, some basic do's and don'ts, and the encouragement to make creative signage for your vehicle.

For small convoys, we don't foresee any need to notify the authorities as you will just be driving the speed limit along the city roads. That said, we don't advise anyone to be hanging out of vehicle window or sunroofs either or doing anything that would attract the attention of the authorities. If your convoy surpasses 50 vehicles, consider breaking up the convoy into two separate convoys or notify your local authorities.

How to pull off a Convoy for Life?

Once all the vehicles are assembled at the meeting point, a lead vehicle would start the Convoy for Life. The convoy would drive along the designated route. The convoy should try to minimize their impact on traffic flow by driving at the speed limit of the road. The lead vehicle of the convoy also should never exceed the speed limit so that the convoy can stay intact. The convoy should also never slow down significantly or stop. All members of the convoy should be courteous to other drivers and allow other drivers to merge or turn-off as easily as possible.

After completing their designated route, the members of the convoy can disperse and head back to their home or workplace.