

Oak Park Our Whole Lives (OWL)

a comprehensive sexuality education program

is seeking VOLUNTEER FACILITATORS

Facilitators commit to:

- Attending a 2.5-day training in OWL facilitation in the summer/fall (dates TBD)
- Participating in a thorough background check
- Facilitating developmentally appropriate classes for kids in Kindergarten through 8th grade, starting in fall of each year. Time commitments vary by age group; see schedules on our Facebook page for current dates and times. www.opowl.org
 - K-1 Classes: birth, babies, bodies, and families.
 - 4-5 Classes: the physical and emotional changes of puberty.
 - 7-8 Classes: sexuality in the context of attitudes, values, and feelings that youth have about themselves and the world.

OP-OWL pays for the training for all facilitators, and the children of facilitators are guaranteed spots in the OP-OWL programs for that year free of charge.

About the Curriculum

OWL is a **secular** sexuality education curriculum developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the United Church of Christ (UCC). It is designed to help participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. The Oak Park program does not include any religious or faith-based content.

Our Whole Lives Offers...	Our Whole Lives Values...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accurate information presented in developmentally appropriate ways• Affective and emotional learning• Guiding values and principles• Activities that help participants clarify values and improve decision-making skills• A safe and supportive peer group• Acceptance of diversity• A social justice approach to inclusive sexuality education• Parent orientation that affirms parents as their children's primary sexuality educators	<p>The program gives clear messages about the following key sexuality issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• self worth• sexual health• responsibility• justice and inclusivity

Our Whole Lives recognizes and respects the diversity of participants with respect to biological sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, and disability status. The activities and language used throughout the program have been carefully chosen to be as inclusive as possible of this human diversity.

Interested in learning more?

For more information about the proposed Oak Park OWL program, please contact us at oakparkowl@gmail.com. We also have a web page: <http://www.opowl.org>.

For more information about the curriculum, please see the UCC page, http://www.ucc.org/justice_sexuality_education_our-whole-lives; or the UUA page, <http://www.uua.org/re/owl>

The UCC guidelines recommend the following characteristics for Our Whole Lives facilitators. Does this sound like you?

1. **18 years old, and at least 7 years older than the students you will be working with.**
2. **Certified in OWL or available to attend a 2.5 day training program** to become certified to lead Our Whole Lives sessions at either the elementary or secondary level. Trainings are available in spring, summer, and fall nationally; we will try to find a local training.

Training fees will be covered by the OP OWL program in exchange for volunteer commitment to teach at least one full program.
3. **Committed to values-based, comprehensive sexuality education.** Facilitators need to have values in harmony with the Our Whole Lives program and goals.
4. **Comfortable with your sexuality.** Facilitators must be comfortable with their own sexuality before they facilitate these topics with youth.
5. **Has experience, skill, and comfort with the specific age group** and its developmental needs. Facilitators will be stimulating discussion by asking open-ended questions, encouraging communication among participants, and facilitating activities that foster experiential learning. They need to use sexual terminology and age-appropriate language comfortably, to relate well with the age group of the participants, and to convey warmth and a sense of humor. They must have a clear sense of boundaries between education and personal disclosure.
6. **Anti-bias aware.** Facilitators must understand, appreciate, and celebrate diversity of race/ethnicity, culture, age, ability, gender, and sexual orientation. Facilitators need the ability to work with people of diverse backgrounds as well as the ability to create a safe and engaging learning environment.
7. **An advocate for sexual health and safety.** Facilitators need knowledge and skills not only to educate about sexual health but also to fulfill the trust inherent in the role of sexuality educator. This role includes the responsibility to recognize and report abuse. Facilitators must pass a background check and must follow Cook County and Illinois processes for reporting and investigating suspected or alleged abuse.
8. **Relationship-builder.** Facilitators need to develop a relationship with each participant, and with each parent and family as well. Facilitators need to build community in the classroom, uphold the Participation Guidelines, and develop relationships of respect, reciprocity, and responsibility within your organization and the wider community.
9. **Dedicated learner and facilitator.** Facilitators must be willing to become thoroughly familiar with the content of the program, to work with a co-facilitator or team, and to listen to and learn from participants and parents.

Interested in learning more about becoming a facilitator?

Please contact Nara Nayar or Nina Brewer-Davis at oakparkowl@gmail.com