HOSTING AN OPEN HOUSE AT YOUR GURDWARA

This November, the Sikh community will commemorate the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism. In addition to the celebrations already taking place to recognize the anniversary, the Sikh Coalition encourages sangats nationwide to host open houses at their local gurdwara.

With over 500,000 Sikhs commemorating the anniversary in the United States, hosting open houses at gurdwaras is an opportunity to formally engage your neighbors, elected officials, and local law enforcement, and introduce them to the beauty and resilience of the Sikh faith, community and traditions.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

The nationwide open houses can take place any weekend from October 11, 2019 to November 15, 2019. If your gurdwara is interested in hosting an open house and receiving the Sikh Coalition’s direct support, please email our Community Development team at community@sikhcoalition.org to get started.

We strongly encourage you to organize early so that the event is a success!
The deadline for committing to work with the Sikh Coalition is September 1, 2019. The sooner you confirm your open house, the sooner we can begin providing you support in multiple areas to ensure your open house is successful. This includes:

**OUTREACH TO ELECTED OFFICIALS**
Contacting city/town, county and state elected officials to attend the open house.

*Inviting elected officials introduces them to their Sikh constituents, and is the first step to building relationships.*

**OUTREACH TO LAW ENFORCEMENT**
Contacting law enforcement agencies and inviting them to the open house.

*Inviting local law enforcement agencies helps officers develop cultural and religious sensitivities and awareness.*

**OUTREACH TO INTERFAITH LEADERS**
Contacting houses of worship (churches, synagogues, mosques, etc.) and inviting them to the open house.

*Inviting interfaith leaders promotes interfaith solidarity and helps build bridges between communities.*

**SIKH AWARENESS RESOURCES**
Mailing printed Sikh awareness resources at no cost. These include The Sikhs brochures, Who Are the Sikhs postcards, anti-bullying brochures and postcards, What is a Hate Crime postcards, Know Your Rights postcard for Taxi and Rideshare Drivers, Know Your Rights card for Kirpans and Back to School postcards.

**MEDIA ENGAGEMENT**
Pitching print and broadcast outlets to cover the open house.

*We will assist with news engagement to gurdwaras who have committed to hosting open houses by September 1st.*

**SEVA PROJECT**
If you are leading a seva project during the open house, we will connect you with a national partner to streamline the process of setting up the project.

If you have any questions about organizing an open house, please email community@sikhcoalition.org