

# Recruitment & Tactics

M, with Neighborhood Anarchist Collective, wants to push back against fascist creep — the slow rise of groups that aren't blatantly fascist but have those tendencies. He says, "Fascist creep is something that affects a community slowly. It is oftentimes characterized by groups that don't outwardly identify as fascist but have many fascistic tendencies, and it's meant to sort of normalize fascism in the community."

But M says fighting against fascist creep is more than punching Nazis in the streets. "One aspect of antifascism that is not talked about as much," he says, "is community support and community enrichment."

M points to support for diversity in our communities, education and counter-recruitment of white communities as options to prevent the spread of fascism.

Counter-recruiting is something Lee of Springfield Roughnecks is intimately familiar with. Springfield Roughnecks is a "grassroots community defense project that focuses on community building while combatting racism and hate," Lee says.

Lee, a retired chief petty officer with the Coast Guard, started the chapter over the summer. He prefers to keep his last name private until he gets doxed because of his close proximity to white supremacists when he's recruiting.

Lee says that Springfield Roughnecks recruits at country music concerts and bars where they're likely to find fellow white working class members of the community. White

supremacist organizations recruit from the same pool.

"I genuinely believe and I have to believe that most working class white people are decent people," Lee says. He says it's his job, as a white person, to push back against that and educate his fellow whites.

"We are working class and poor," Lee says. "Our core principle is that we stand against white supremacy and discrimination. And we believe in freedom and liberty for everybody. All of us working class people whether we're black or white or Muslim or Christian."

White supremacists recruit by saying they're in favor of "white pride," Lee says, not by leading with hatred. "They target people whose lives are hard, who are struggling to get by, who work two or three jobs." He adds, "They say 'No you should take pride in your heritage. It's these people that are responsible for it. It's the immigrants; it's the fault of immigrants coming and taking your jobs.'"

LCDN's Natalie Adonis, who prefers they/them pronouns and is using a fake name to avoid identification, says, "I think a big thing that fascists exploit to recruit is alienation, especially among men, almost exceedingly white. And then after they've exploited that to recruit them they use the additional alienation from the rest of the community to isolate people and pick people off."

Springfield Roughnecks, on the other hand, tells their potential recruits that it's the politicians and corporations that are taking their jobs, not immigrants. Lee says fascism is defined by corporate control of the government.

"The problem is not black people. It's not Latinos

coming and taking our jobs. Our problem is corrupt politicians who have sold us out to the corporations and the super wealthy elites in the world. Eight people in the world have the same wealth as half the people on the planet."

So Springfield Roughnecks works to stop fascist creep by recruiting those who may become fascist to their anti-racist organization. LCDN fights fascism by tearing down recruitment materials and threatening propaganda, but they also "bring communities together," Adonis says.

"The community needs to be strong together," they say, "because it's much harder to use a divide and conquer method to forward fascism if you can't divide and conquer the people you're trying [target]."

Powell-Córdova of LCDN says, "If you want to get involved with a group that does this work, there's a ton of groups that do this work in Eugene." She says anyone can make time for this if she can.

Katherine with the *Friendly Anarchism* podcast says, "Anarchists and antifascists do a lot of food stability work, like neighborhood food systems and local food systems so that we are self-sufficient and self-reliant."

She also advocates for shaming people for their fascist beliefs. "We want this not to be socially acceptable," she says.

While Katherine is willing to take a few punches to protect peaceful protesters, "the way we keep people out of those situations is by having a lot of community support."

"I feel like the more exposure people have to antifascism, the support grows really quickly. Which is important, because it keeps everyone safer." ■




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The City of Eugene is proposing a new rest stop for community members experiencing homelessness at 34th Ave. and Hilyard St. in southeast Eugene. City Council public forum on Monday, October 23, at 7 p.m. in Harris Hall, 125 E. 8th Ave.

Learn more about the program rules and participants and view a video at: [www.eugene-or.gov/reststops](http://www.eugene-or.gov/reststops)




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