



We challenge the current structures

The status quo is not working for young people - from student debt, to voter suppression, racism, lack of youth representation in government and beyond. We see the barriers to attaining a prosperous present and future for young people. We are experts in our own experience.

We are young

Youth led movements access and understand young people because that's us! Our lived experiences as young Mainers sculpts our strategy and decision making. We are geographically diverse, coming from rural and suburban areas. We work with allied organizations as collaborators advocating for youth, not as the single, representative youth voice.

We are here to win

We are winning a future where young people can thrive, prosper and be actively part of the state of Maine. We drive civic engagement amongst young people and seek to influence current political discourse, where we make our priorities known. We provide a space where young people can convert their visions for the future into effective action and work together towards creating a more inclusive future that works for all.

We channel power

Organized youth power is how we will win a state where we can thrive, and relational organizing is central to how we do this. We encourage one another to step into our individual power, and we uplift this strength in each of us so that, together, our collective power becomes an undeniable force.

We are capable

We come from a variety of backgrounds and lived experiences and we know that everyone's voice has value. We thrive in our differences, knowing that there are stronger barriers for some, and embrace how our experiences inform our perspectives. Through elevating each other's voices, we broaden our visions for a better future and continue to grow in the field of youth organizing.

We are nonviolent

We recognize that the current system is violent. We are committed to non-violence in our efforts to disrupt the current system. We seek to reduce harm, both interpersonal and systemic, through our actions and words. We focus on the impact of actions and words rather than intent behind them.



We believe in collective liberation

People with privilege benefit when others are oppressed. We know that to truly win a world where we all thrive, our struggles are bound together and dismantling oppressive systems will liberate all of us. We are actively working to be in solidarity with movements for BIPOC, LGBTQ+, human dignity, class struggle, and beyond.

We are devoted to dismantling systemic racism

We seek to deepen our understanding of our individual and collective positioning in our communities as it relates to the broader context of power and race. We know it is our responsibility to unlearn white supremacy embedded in society. We engage in conversation and action to contribute to dismantling internalized and *structural racism*.

We are sustainable

We are continuously growing a movement now and for those who are coming after us. We believe in the need for a just transition to a livable future, working to help shift our extractive economy to a regenerative one, in which both our economy and planet are healthy. We organize for a long-term visionary future, where all of us together care for nature and people.

We uplift/respect our identities

From gender identity and pronoun use, to sexual orientation, to race, to class background and heritage, we respect what each of us bring. We respect our work outside the movement space as well.

We are passionate because it is our future

We move with thoughtful urgency. We know that issues are happening around us, but to make meaningful change we need to include everyone and take conscious steps as leaders.

We acknowledge that this land was stolen

We organize on Wabanaki land, land whose rights were never ceded. We act in solidarity with Wabanaki people today Micmacs, Maliseets, Passamaquoddy, and Penobscot in their ongoing fight for equal rights to water, land and tribal sovereignty.



We are emergent; we walk it like we talk it

We are constantly listening, learning and adapting. The ideas of Emergent Strategy as pioneered by adrienne maree brown¹ are at the core of our movement. We model on the inside as we want the outside to be. We embody our vision.

We tell our stories

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Our lived experiences are valid and they are the driving force of creating change. We recognize that listening is power. We listen to each other because we are here to uplift the needs and wants of all of us.

We are leaderful, not leaderless²

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We encourage each other to step up to our full potential and shine bright, knowing that movement spaces are full of leaders and we collaborate and coordinate with leaders throughout Maine movements.

We meet people where they are at

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We welcome anyone to join us in our work. There is a space for everyone in the movement, like actually. We have seen how jargon, “woke olympics”, insular movement behavior can make power-building spaces exclusive. We know that for young people to win together, everyone must be able to come with us.

We honor process

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We give and receive feedback and reflect on what we put out in the world and adapt accordingly. We move at the speed of trust to ensure that we are building in a way that supports collective thriving. We organize virtually so that young Mainers from rural places are centered and uplifted.

We are adapting

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We support one another in personal and collective transformation. We invite shifts of strategy and organizational focus to meet the present organizing landscape. Even now we are changing and learning, and we adapt our practices, thinking and core values to reflect that growth. **This is a living document that grows with us.**

¹ adrienne maree brown *Emergent Strategy* 2017

²Jonathan Smucker *Hegemony How To*, pg. 186

Maine Youth Power Core Values



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