

In the last National Defense Authorization Act, the government included a hidden inclusion that makes a significant change in draft registration procedures for young men 18-25.

As of December, this year all young

men will automatically be registered for the draft using existing federal databases without a place to express one's conscientious objection. This means it will be more difficult and require a much more intentional effort to formulate and respond if you are opposed to participating in the military as a matter of conscientious.



On May 17, On Earth Peace (OEP) is offering an on-line session during your Sunday School hour that will explore “the ‘hows’ of registering as a conscientious objector today and the ‘what ifs’ of what that means. It will be an honest and informative conversation focusing on preparing youth and young adults for documenting their CO status, what registration and resistance would require today, and the risks and questions that being a CO asks of us.”

OEP wants to make sure this session is right for you and your youth, and is at a time that works for you. If you are interested in introducing your youth to this conversation, please get in touch with Ewan or Marie at cob-organizer@onearthpeace.org or mrhoades@onearthpeace.org for more information and to figure out a time that works best of you and your youth/young adults. **RSVP by May 12 at www.onearthpeace.org/2026_05_17_co_sunday_school** to express interest in attending the program and On Earth Peace will respond to schedule a time.

We recommend beginning the conversation now with the [Call of Conscience curriculum](#), so that your group can enter the conversation with some background information before getting to the heart of what is necessary to be a CO today. This curriculum is available free at <http://www.brethren.org/CO>. The leader's guide and reproducible handouts are included. There is a printed Call of Conscience Journal which includes most of the handouts and additional materials in a form that can be used with the curriculum or by an individual who want to explore their own position on conscientious objection on their own. Copies can be purchases from Brethren Press (printing the handouts is not necessary if you get the journal).

While, at present, only men are affected, there is a move to include women too if a draft is activated. Young women should also be a part of the conversation.

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