



TEENS, CRIME, AND THE COMMUNITY



YOUTH IN SERVICE

RAISING AWARENESS: TEEN ALCOHOL ABUSE

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Mark Your Calendar!

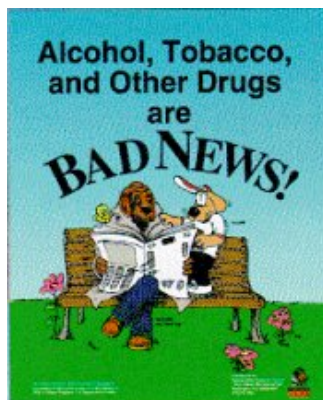
FEATURED THIS MONTH ON THE WEB

Check out McGruff.org for a "say no to drugs" coloring page and information on gun safety!

APRIL CRIME PREVENTION OBSERVANCES

- April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month.
- April 21-23, 2006, is National and Global Youth Service Day.
- April 23-29, 2006, is National Volunteer Week and National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Support April's crime prevention observances; plan projects with youth focused on safety and service!



April is Alcohol Awareness Month.

Alcohol use constitutes the number one drug problem in America, and alcohol is the drug of choice for teens. Help recognize and prevent underage drinking by teaching teens and youth the dangers of underage alcohol consumption.

Underage drinking can be lethal, because judgment is the first capacity affected by alcohol. In fact, alcohol-related car crashes are the number one killer of teenagers in the United States. Moreover, because alcohol loosens inhibitions, underage drinkers may make bad judgments that can result in violence, unwanted pregnancy, sexual transmission of diseases, or rape. Over-consumption of alcohol can lead to alcohol poisoning or death.

The 2004 *National Survey on Drug Use and Health* of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA, www.samhsa.gov) reports that nearly 11 million youth ages 12 to 20 were current drinkers of alcohol. Moreover, SAMHSA states that in 2004, almost 7.5 million youth were binge drinkers (consuming five or more drinks per occasion). These numbers show that it is important to teach young people at an early age about the dangers of underage drinking. For information on how to talk to children about alcohol, check out McGruff.org.

There are many factors that relate to underage drinking including the prevalence of alcohol advertising, the availability of alcohol to teens, and examples set by parents and other adults. However, law-related education programs such as *Community Works* help prevent activities like alcohol abuse. *Community Works* Session 19 is focused on both recognizing and preventing underage drinking. The session is designed to teach youth the dangers of underage drinking, effective strategies to address the underage drinking problem, and ways for youth to play a role in preventing underage drinking. **For a complimentary copy of *Community Works* Session 19, contact tcc@ncpc.org; include your name and address with the request.**

After teaching the session to youth, encourage them to view www.thecoolspot.gov, an interactive and educational website for middle school youth, sponsored by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. The website includes quizzes and games focused on peer pressure, facts about alcohol, and the risks of alcohol consumption.

For more information on teen alcohol abuse and prevention, check out the National Crime Prevention Council at www.ncpc.org, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration at www.samhsa.gov, and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism at www.niaaa.nih.gov/.

The NCPC "Bad News" poster pictured above is available for \$3.95 (plus shipping) from 800-NCPC-911. Request Item P39. The two-volume *Community Works* curriculum is also available from 800-NCPC-911 for \$119.00 plus shipping (or order ten copies of the curriculum for \$95.00 each, plus shipping). Request Item K31. The curriculum set includes *Charting Success*, a workbook to help youth create service projects. (See page 2 for a description of *Charting Success* in "National and Global Youth Service Day!") Both can also be ordered online at www.mcgruff.store.org.

Teens, Crime, and the Community

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Meridian, ID
April 24-25, 2006
Community Works
Implementation Training
Contact:
www.idahocrimeprevent.org

Orlando, FL
April 27-28, 2006
Florida's Annual Bullying
Prevention Conference
Contact:
www.firn.edu/doe/besss/bull_conf.html

Bethesda, MD
May 4-7, 2006
Coalition for Juvenile
Justice 2006 Annual
Spring Conference
Contact:
www.juvjustice.org

San Diego, CA
May 21-24, 2006
Prevent Child Abuse
America 2006 National
Conference
Contact:
www.preventchildabuse.org

NATIONAL AND GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY!



National and Global Youth Service Day is April 21-23, 2006! Encourage youth to participate in the largest service event in the world. The goals of Youth Service Day are "to mobilize youth to identify and address the needs of their communities through service; to support youth on a life-long path of service and civic engagement; [and] to educate the public, the media, and policymakers about the year-round contributions of young people as community leaders" (Youth Service America, YSA, www.ysa.org).

It is important to promote youth service because "youth who volunteer are more likely to do well in school, graduate, vote, and volunteer for the rest of their lives. [These youth] are also less likely to abuse drugs and alcohol and engage in other destructive behavior" (YSA). Help engage youth in service projects that suit their interests, thus promoting civic mindedness, volunteerism, and community responsibility. Consult *Volunteering: Do What You Like To Do*, a National Crime Prevention Council resource focused on finding service projects that suit youth talents. NCPC also has a publication focused on steps to create and execute service projects titled *Charting Success: A Workbook for Developing Service-learning Projects*.

Charting Success describes five steps to plan and complete a service-learning project:

Step 1. Identify the problem you want to address with your service-learning project.

Step 2. Plan your project.

Step 3. Line up the resources you will need.

Step 4. Act on your plan.

Step 5. Evaluate and nurture your project; reflect on your service experience; celebrate successes!

Share these steps and resources with youth, and encourage them to visit the Youth Service America National and Global Youth Service Day Website (www.ysa.org/nysd). There youth can find tips on how to launch a successful service project and be effectively engaged in National and Global Youth Service Day!

A single copy of the booklet *Volunteering: Do What You Like To Do* is available free (plus shipping) from 800-NCPC-911. Request Item F32. *Charting Success* is also available from 800-NCPC-911 for \$11.95 (plus shipping). Request Item M11C. Both can also be ordered online at www.mcgruffstore.org.

TCC MINI-GRANT WINNER: ICVR KING TEAM

Interested Citizens for Voter Registration, Inc. (ICVR) King Team created a "Crime Fighters Project" to correspond with the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday Kingfest. Kingfest is a week-long festival of remembrance and nonviolent activism in Pine Bluff, AR. The ICVR King Team Crime Fighters held a public youth forum on January 21, 2006, to confront issues of drugs, crime, and violence in the community. The topics targeted all members of the community, from children to seniors. The youth involved in the project studied crime prevention materials in order to present facts and personal perspectives to their audience. Youth in the forum discussed their viewpoints and provided time for the audience to respond. The goal of the forum was to help the community understand how crime and crime prevention are perceived by youth. After the youth engaged the community through the forum, youth took a nonviolent crime-fighter pledge to abstain from drugs and violence.

Congratulations to the ICVR King Team Crime Fighters for planning a project that engaged and educated the community about crime prevention and taught other youth to stay safe!

We're Looking for a Few Good Programs!

TCC staff are collecting information about exceptional TCC programs for a new monograph. If you have a great *Community Works* or Youth Safety Corps program and would like to share some of the highlights and challenges, service project success, and the impact this program has had on your students and the broader community, send an email to Lori Brittain at Lbrittain@ncpc.org.

If you have a question or concern you would like to see answered here, email tcc@ncpc.org.