

TEENS, CRIME, AND THE COMMUNITY



YOUTH IN SERVICE

YOUTH GANGS: RECOGNIZE AND PREVENT

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Youth Gangs: Recognize and Prevent

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Mark Your Calendar!



- NCPC has a new blog! Check out the *Prevention Works* blog for information about crime prevention strategies and specific crimes. To access the blog, go to www.ncpc.org/blog.
- National TCC has posted the service-learning grant application and guidelines for the 2006-2007 school year. Visit www.nationaltcc.org to download the information.



Preventing youth gang involvement is an important topic for current practitioners. To keep youth from joining gangs, caring adults should be able to identify factors that may preclude gang involvement, pinpoint warning signs of gang involvement, know what resources to call on for help, and offer youth alternatives to gangs.

Factors that may lead to gang involvement are not based upon socioeconomic or ethnic backgrounds; rather, they are linked to poor decision-making skills, peer pressures, poor family conditions, lack of positive behavior and feedback in school, and community turmoil. Warning signs of youth gang involvement include youth losing interest in school, becoming truant, carrying weapons and large amounts of cash, using drugs and alcohol, and displaying gang symbols on their clothing or lockers. (While these are warning signs, it's important to acknowledge that not all youth displaying these activities and behaviors are affiliated with gangs. Talk to your local gang unit officer if you suspect youth to be involved with gangs.)

If you do encounter youth who are involved in gangs, it is important to understand how you can help them get out safely. Because teens may not be willing to go police officers for help, encourage teens to call or visit a local teen crisis center. You can also help them find and become interested in positive alternatives to violence. Praise and encourage their positive behaviors and talents; tell them where they can make use of their skills. For instance, youth can join sports teams, art clubs, explore music interests, etc.

For more information about preventing youth gangs, download NCPC's new gang prevention fact sheet for educators from www.nationaltcc.org. You can also download the gang prevention fact sheet for your students. Use *Community Works* Sessions 17 and 18, which address defining and finding alternatives to gangs, with youth as well.

YOUTH GANG PREVENTION WEBINAR

NCPC is sponsoring a free Youth Gang Prevention webinar which includes presentations by two recognized gang specialists. The webinar will explore the individual decisions, peer pressure, family conditions, lack of school achievement, and community turmoil that may influence youth to join gangs. Webinar participants will follow the workshop on their computers, interacting with the speakers via telephone and chat-bots The webinar will be held September 14, 2006, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

For more information and to register for the webinar, visit www.nationaltcc.org.

TEENS, CRIME, AND THE COMMUNITY

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



National Partnership for Juvenile Services, 12th National Symposium on Juvenile Services October 15-18, 2006 Las Vegas, NV Contact: www.npjs.org

Adolescence and the Transition to Adulthood: Rethinking the Safety Net for Vulnerable Young Adults October 18-19, 2006 Chicago, IL Contact:

www.about.chapinhall.org

National Crime Prevention Council 8th National Conference on Preventing Crime October 3-5, 2007 Atlanta, GA Contact: www.ncpc.org/National Conference2007

COMMUNITY WORKS SITE SUPPORT 2006-2007

The national TCC office will be offering technical assistance and financial support to *Community Works* sites that fulfill program requirements during the 2006-2007 school year.

The Community Works program requirements are:

- Minimum of 15-25 contact hours (teaching required sessions 2-4, 6-8, 10 and 11, and two additional topical sessions)
- Use of community resource people
- Completion of one youth-led service-learning project

In addition, both new and existing *Community Works* sites will receive a site implementation agreement form from the national office or state technical assistance provider. This form is meant to assist you in your implementation efforts. The form includes a brief summary of the *Community Works* program, and is intended to inform your site administrator or principal of the program's specific implementation requirements and of your intent to implement the *Community Works* program.

Instructors who return a signed copy of the site implementation agreement form will receive the following resources and opportunities from the national office:

- Information, support, and technical assistance with program implementation, lesson development, and service-learning project planning
- Special online access to the updated thirty-one *Community Works* sessions
- Monthly program newsletter, Youth In Service
- Eligibility to apply for a service-learning mini-grant to support youth-led project development
- Eligibility to apply for an instructor stipend to support additional costs associated with program implementation

The site agreement form, service-learning grant application, and instructor stipend application can be downloaded from the TCC website, www.nationaltcc.org.

Community Works User Survey

Registered *Community Works* sites are asked to complete a user survey at the conclusion of the *Community Works* course. Instructors who teach during the course of one semester are asked to complete user survey forms in either December or May (based on program start date). Other participants may be asked to complete user survey forms twice a year if they teach a different group of students each semester. Instructors have the option of returning the completed forms via mail, email, fax, or website.

Community Works instructors who comply with program requirements and return the Community Works user survey forms will be eligible to apply for grants to support youth-led service-learning projects and an instructor stipend to supplement additional costs (e.g. supplies, supplemental materials) associated with implementing the Community Works program.

For more information about the *Community Works* program technical assistance and financial support, contact Debra Eisenman at Deisenman@ncpc.org or 202-261-4116.

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