

Connect



Keep It A Safe Summer



Even though summer may bring a break from the books, if you're involved in a SADD chapter, you have even more work to do during these months. Unfortunately, many youth fatalities occur in June, July and August.

SADD National has provided a number of activities SADD members can get involved in during the summer. Use your creativity to come up with others.

- ◆ Work with your community to provide a variety of fun activities for teens so they don't resort to dangerous and destructive behavior because they have nothing else to do.
- ◆ Sponsor a float in your 4th of July or Labor Day parade. If your community has a holiday celebration, you may want to choose to display a crashed car to point out the dangers of underage drinking, impaired driving and aggressive driving. Be sure that the crashed car does not have any history or significance in your community.
- ◆ Plan an outdoor dance under the stars at a local tennis or basketball court or even a parking lot at school.
- ◆ Host an old fashioned field day with sack races, three legged races, egg throws, toilet paper wraps and other fun activities. Ask local pizza restaurants to donate pizza and soda for the event.
- ◆ Visit local liquor stores and convenience stores and ask them to be diligent about checking IDs and not selling to anyone under the age of 21.

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Ideas? Questions? Concerns?

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One in four teens admits to driving under the influence, and many believe it does not impact their safety.

(From study by Liberty Mutual and Students Against Destructive Decisions)

- ◆ Every school has a number of musical groups. Why not have a "Battle of the Bands" or a music fest where each group has a chance to perform? You could sell refreshments to raise funds for your SADD chapter.
- ◆ Plan a fun walk/run with a picnic or barbecue at the finish. You could even have a DJ. Ask a local civic organization such as Rotary, Lions Club or Elks to provide food and beverages.
- ◆ Ask your local recreation center to sponsor a pool party for young adults with music, food and dancing.
- ◆ Consider having a talent show. It could be talent-specific, such as a country music contest or open to all kinds of talent.
- ◆ Ask your local radio stations to broadcast public service announcements. A free CD with PSAs is available from the SADD National Office, or you may develop your own.
- ◆ Don't forget the importance of "buckling up." Hold a Buckle Up for Safety Day at your local beach. Conduct the Quick Click Buckle Challenge, encouraging everyone to compete. Award prizes. Invite the media and distribute literature on the importance of air bags, safety seats and seat belts. If we could get every teen to buckle up, we would save hundreds of lives!
- ◆ Urge establishments that serve liquor to be alert for customers who have had too much to drink and to assist them in getting home without driving.
- ◆ Design and distribute table tents to local restaurants, pubs and other eating establishments to remind customers it is illegal to drink under the age of 21 and not to mix drinking with other activities such as biking, swimming and boating.

Do Your Part to Prevent Bullying

Bullying does not have to be a reality that we must learn to live with. If a person is being bullied, they should tell someone; a parent, teacher or counselor.



Parents must also take an active role in their child's life and safety. If a parent knows that their child is bullying, then they must take steps to stop this behavior. Going to counseling can help get to the root of the issue and help the bully to

change their behavior before it is too late. If a person is a witness to a bullying event, then it is their responsibility to step in by taking up for the victim or by getting an adult right away. The bystander effect (seeing bullying but being too afraid to get involved) is no excuse and can cause further damage to the victim and the bully. Saying nothing is almost as bad as committing the bullying acts itself. (From *The Psychology of Bullying*)

Teen Drugged and Drunk Driving

According to U.S. Census data there are 13 million driving-aged teenagers and, with 23 percent of teens admitting to driving under the influence of alcohol, marijuana or other drugs, as many as 3 million impaired teen driv-



ers may be taking to the roads during the upcoming months, according to a new survey from Liberty Mutual Insurance and SADD.

Many teens don't even consider alcohol, marijuana or other drugs a distraction or deterrent to their driving ability. Of teens who admit to drinking and driving, nearly 40 percent claim that alcohol has no impact on their driving. Some even say alcohol improves their driving. Even more concerning is that among teens who admit to driving under the influence of marijuana, 75 percent feel the same way.

On the positive side, more than 90 percent of teens say their school has a program or policy in place to deter illegal behavior, the most common being security guards or police. The use of breathalyzers at school events is up nearly 25 percent.

While school programs play an important role in keeping teens from engaging in illegal activities, they can only go so far, and it is more critical than ever for parents to speak with their teens at home about the importance of safe driving. The SADD Contract for Life is a great way for teens and their parents to start this conversation.

Save the Date!

The state SADD conference is scheduled for Saturday, November 15 - Sunday, November 17, 2013.

It is important that all chapters support the SADD conference. This is where students and advisors learn new prevention methods and tools that enable you to make a difference in your schools and communities. SADD is not a social club; we need expert training to stay on top of the issues that young people face today. For a sample of the conference program and fees, view the 2012 conference information at www.ncsadd.org.

Although the primary purpose of the conference training, there are lots of opportunities for fun!



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- * Advisors, please have your students join the SADD mail list at ncyaio.com so they can receive copies of the newsletter.
 - * Remember also that when school resumes, we are having a membership drive to get more boys involved in SADD and attending the state conference.
 - * If you haven't registered with the State Farm Celebrate My Drive program, go to www.celebratemydrive.com and sign up. There's money in it for you!

Have A Safe and Happy Summer!



North Carolina Department of Administration
Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office