

# Connect



## THE STATE SADD CONFERENCE WAS A BLAST!

From Friday through Saturday, November 20-22, chapter members and advisors from across the state participated in a weekend of training, fun and food at the 2015 SADD Leadership Conference. The Student Advisory Board (SAB) presided over the weekend activities. On Friday evening, participants watched a three-screen presentation of Motivational Media Assemblies' exciting new program, "All for One." After pizza, wings and brownies, the SAB lead their respective Hogwarts "houses" in activities and friendly competitions. Students were divided into houses of Gryffindor 1, Gryffindor 2, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw and Slytherin.



Posing at the 9 3/4 Hogwarts Express

Everyone was up bright and early Saturday morning for a hot breakfast and an assembly with LaRonda Scott—state executive director for Mothers Against Drunk Driving—before heading off to workshops. At lunch, Peggy and Josh Bennet of Charlotte kept the audience spellbound with their riveting first-hand account of the consequences of underage drinking. After a hot lunch, everyone returned to complete afternoon workshops. Workshops were presented by Chris Campau, Recovery Communities of NC; Annette Carrington Johnson, Durham Health Department; StreetSafe; Kiricka Yarbough Smith, NC Council for Women and the SAB. For detailed descriptions of presenters and workshops, see [2015 Conference Program Booklet](#).

The Saturday Night Banquet featured **Southwest High School** students **Cameron Clause** beautifully singing the National Anthem and **Alyssa Brown** providing expert violin accompaniment to the candlelight ceremony. Dr. Daniel Findley of the NC State University Institute for Transportation Research and Education gave the keynote address. Everyone dressed in their finest for the occasion. **West Johnston High School** of Benson swept the awards with **Nikolaus Reasor** as Student of the Year, **Amanda Fisher** as Advisor of the Year, and West Johnston as Chapter of the Year (*West Johnston's Art Club also provided professional level artwork for the conference*). **Katie Traylor** of Moyock received an award for outstanding commitment and service to the SADD Program. All SAB members received framed commendation certificates. Keeping with the Harry Potter theme, the Yule Dance provided an opportunity for students to burn off some energy.



Nik Reasor (*left*) and Amanda Fisher (*right*) proudly display their awards. Devin Walker (*center*) holds the Chapter of the Year trophy.

November-December 2015

Issue 29

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### January Calendar

Elementary School Campaign  
National Blood Donor Month  
MLK. Jr. Day of Service  
No Name Calling Week  
National Drug Facts Week

### Ideas? Questions? Concerns?

#### Contact

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### Visit NC SADD

[www.ncyao.com](http://www.ncyao.com)

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[www.sadd.org](http://www.sadd.org)

To have *Connect* come directly to you, join the SADD mail list at [www.ncyao.com](http://www.ncyao.com)

Sunday morning started with breakfast and an inspiring message from SRO **Billy Essick**, 2014-15 Advisor of the Year from **First Flight High School** in Kill Devil Hills (Dare County). As Essick spoke about his commitment to youth, it was plain to see why he received the Advisor of the Year Award. Everyone enjoyed a photo recap of the entire conference (See [2015 Conference Slideshow](#)). Representatives from each house took the stage to tell how attending the conference would help them be better SADD members. The conference ended with prize drawings and goodbye hugs. Additional photos from the conference can be seen at [Conference Photos 1](#) and [Conference Photos 2](#).

**Roxboro Community School** in Roxboro (Person County). **Go Bulldogs!**

We welcome **Alison Hargett**, new SADD advisor at **Uwharrie Charter Academy** in Asheboro (Randolph County). Former advisor Courtney Chavis reports that Hargett has “hit the ground running!” **Go Eagles!**

We look forward to helping in the important work these chapters will do in the coming year. Let these new advisors know that we work together. Please reach out to them to offer your encouragement and support.  
Melvin: [agmelvin@nrms.k12.nc.us](mailto:agmelvin@nrms.k12.nc.us)  
Roberts: [robertskw@roxborocommunityschool.org](mailto:robertskw@roxborocommunityschool.org)  
Hargett: [alison\\_hargett@uwharriecharter.org](mailto:alison_hargett@uwharriecharter.org).

**FIRST FLIGHT SADD SPREADS HOLIDAY CHEER**



Bri Blumenthal was a student at First Flight Middle school who lost her life after being struck by a vehicle while riding her bicycle. Since the tragic loss of his daughter, her father, Scotty Blumenthal, has started the BRI Foundation to raise money to get every child in Dare and Currituck Counties equipped with bike helmets. First Flight High School SADD pitched in to help the foundation by operating a donation table at the home basketball game with Manteo High School December 9, 2015. Advisor Billy Essick reported that the students collected \$148.95 through their efforts. Essick contacted Blumenthal and told him about what the SADD Club had done and asked him to come to the school so the students could present the funds to him. Mr. Blumenthal was moved by this outpouring of support from First Flight SADD.



The SAB displays Certificates of Appreciation. (left-right): Ebony Castro, Caitlin Claus, Devin Walker, Alexis Williams, Kierra Bradsher, Katie Traylor and Nik Reasor

**ROLLING OUT THE WELCOME WAGON!**



We welcome **Amanda Melvin** and **Christy Bailey** as co-advisors of the SADD chapter at **Southern Nash High School** in Bailey (Nash County). Melvin said she and Bailey are really enjoying working with the great group of students they have. **Go Firebirds!**

We welcome **Kara Roberts**, new SADD advisor at



SADD advisor, SRO Essick (left) and FFHS SADD Club members with Scotty Blumenthal (center back) after a successful BRI Foundation campaign



SADD member Samantha Allen presents donation to Mr. Blumenthal.

## SOUTHWEST HIGH PROMOTES KINDNESS



The SADD Club at **Southwest High School** in Jacksonville (Onslow County) recently hosted a week-long "Unity Day" event at their school. The theme for the week was "Stop the Bullying and Promote Kindness."

Each day, students and staff dressed in orange (a school color) and signed a banner supporting the theme. SADD members gave out wristbands and stickers with the message "Kindness...Pass It On." SADD members made announcements about different forms of bullying, the consequences that may follow, and how to help when you see a victim of bullying.

Students could send a note of kindness to a fellow student or staff member. The notes began with the phrase "I thought you should know," and the students wrote encouraging messages to each other. Southwest SADD advisor Diane Dail reported, "We passed out approximately 125 messages, and it was so popular that we are planning to make it a monthly event." Congratulations, Southwest, on an innovative and invaluable project. **Go Stallions!**

First Flight SADD also demonstrated their commitment to the well-being of the community by working with the Kiwanis Club to staff Salvation Army donation sites. The students rang the bell and manned the kettle at Walmart, Kmart and Harris Teeter stores. Each student spent two-hour shifts standing either inside or outside the stores to help raise money for the Salvation Army. Congratulations to these caring young people. **Go Nighthawks!**



### First Flight Bell Ringers

*Top Left:* Brittany Kusina and Melanie Gonzalez

*Top Right:* Samuel Beacham, Erin Limbacher and Claire Crawford

*Bottom:* Megan Stokes, Sara Munson, Rebecca Hite and Isabella House



*Top:* Students pledge to promote kindness. *Bottom:* SADD members hand out stickers and bracelets.

*Inset:* Kindness Bracelets

## PHOTOVOICEKIT READY FOR ACTION

We reported in an earlier edition of Connect that SADD would collaborate with the University of North Carolina at Greensboro on the federally funded, evidence based project, **PhotovoiceKit**. The university has informed us that the web-based project has been released, and they are ready for SADD chapters to get on board. Chapters will use the PhotovoiceKit to carry out projects addressing alcohol in their communities, and the research team will gather suggestions for improving PhotovoiceKit.

Participants will receive tee shirts and funds (\$\$\$!) to cover the expenses of conducting a local photovoice project. Additionally, SADD advisors will receive a financial incentive for participating in data collection.



If your chapter participates in the project, you will be asked to use PhotovoiceKit to carry out local photovoice projects during the Spring of 2016, over the course of 5-15 weeks. Some chapters will be asked to begin their projects in January 2016 and conduct their photovoice exhibit sometime in March 2016. Other chapters will begin their projects in April 2016 and conduct their exhibit sometime in June 2016. Advisors will be asked to provide feedback about PhotovoiceKit and information about their chapters.

Because there are a limited number of slots available, it is requested that you send an email to the PhotovoiceKit team at [photovoicekit@gmail.com](mailto:photovoicekit@gmail.com) to get your chapter involved. Be sure to include your contact information as well as the name and location of your chapter. To learn more about PhotovoiceKit, visit <http://photovoicekit.org/the-steps-of-photovoice>.

## SADD AND INSURANCE DEPT. WORK TOGETHER

Insurance for teen drivers is expensive. To shed light on some of the reasons why, the Consumer Services Division of the North Carolina Department of Insurance is working together with SADD to make information available to teens and their parents about the impact and consequences that unsafe driving behaviors have on insurance premiums. From time to time,



the Consumer Services Division will provide insurance tips to pass on to our readers. Learn more on the NCDOT Teen Driving website:

<http://www.ncdoi.com/TeenDrivers/>.

## WHERE'S THE MONEY?

Carly Crim, grant writer for the Dept. of Administration, has been working hard to find funding opportunities for our chapters. If you are willing to fulfill the grant specifications, there are a number of avenues for obtaining funds. If the state coordinator can be of help to you in pursuing a grant, please contact the SADD office. We want Crim to know that the time spent researching grant opportunities for us is time well spent. The following are some available grant opportunities.

**The Sodexo Foundation and Youth Service America (YSA)** are looking for 125 of the best ideas from young people about how they can help end childhood hunger in their communities. Sodexo Foundation Youth Grants of \$400 are available for youth-led service projects that bring together young people, families, Sodexo employees and other community members to address childhood hunger. Young people in the United States, ages five to 25, are eligible to apply. Funded projects should take place on or around Global Youth Service Day, April 15-17, 2016. The application deadline is January 15, 2016. Visit the YSA website at <http://www.ysa.org/grants> to access the online application.

The **Captain Planet Foundation** supports educational programs that enable youth to understand and appreciate our world by getting involved in hands-on projects to improve the environment. The Foundation provides small grants to innovative programs that inspire youth to participate in community service through environmental stewardship activities. An additional priority is to fund programs that encourage environment-based education in schools. Public

schools and nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply for grants of \$500 to \$2,500. Priority is given to projects with matching funds or in-kind support. The first application deadline for 2016 is January 31. For application guidelines, visit the Foundation's website: <http://captainplanetfoundation.org/apply-for-grants/>.

**WaystoHelp.org** seeks to engage, inspire and enable high school students to make a positive difference in the world. The organization makes it easy for youth to learn about and take action on today's most pressing social issues. These issues include saving the environment, improving conditions in their communities and helping people in need. Students can apply for \$500 grants for projects that address the following issues:

- **The Environment:** Focus areas include clean water, land preservation, global warming and recycling.
- **Democracy and Equality:** Focus areas include education and development, gender equality, homelessness and poverty, and financial well-being.
- **Health:** Focus areas include HIV/AIDS, cancer and smoking, general fitness, and organ and blood donation.
- **Community Issues:** Focus areas include drug and alcohol abuse, crime prevention, animal welfare, and senior care.

WaystoHelp.org grants have no deadline. Grant requests are reviewed on a monthly basis. Application guidelines are available at <http://waystohelp.org/>.

### **COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

The Golden LEAF Foundation has a great opportunity for students to get funding for college. A total of 215 awards will be offered to first-time recipients to assist with tuition at participating institutions for the 2016-17 academic year. The awards are valued at \$12,000 (\$3,000 per year for up to four years) for high school seniors and community college transfer students from qualifying counties who attend a participating North Carolina campus.

Scholarship recipients are selected based on multiple factors including grade point average, financial need, length of residence in the county and the ability to communicate a commitment and desire to returning to a rural county that is economically distressed.

Candidates must submit a Golden LEAF scholarship application, available at [CFNC.org/goldenleaf](http://CFNC.org/goldenleaf); a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), and a current high school or community college transcript no later than March 1, 2016. Scholarship recipients receive significant additional benefits that are explained on the website.



*The Youth Advocacy & Involvement Office wishes all our students and advisors a wonderful Christmas season and the best of health, happiness and prosperity in 2016!*