



## NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

# YOUTH IN SERVICE

## CONTENTS

### Summer Vacation Safety Tips

#### NCPC Programs for Children and Youth:

- **Teens, Crime, and the Community**
- **McGruff® Club**
- **Youth Outreach for Victim Assistance**
- **Be Safe and Sound**
- **Youth as Resources**

## FEATURED ON THE WEB

Visit the TCC section of NCPC's website for information on communicating with youth about crime!

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



San Diego, CA  
May 21-24, 2006  
Prevent Child Abuse  
America 2006 National  
Conference  
Contact:  
[www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org)

May 23, 2006  
Webcast  
Preventing Gangs in Our  
Communities (Part 1)  
Contact:  
[www.DOJconnect.com](http://www.DOJconnect.com)

June 6, 2006  
Webcast  
Preventing Gangs in our  
Communities (Part 2)  
Contact:  
[www.DOJconnect.com](http://www.DOJconnect.com)

## SUMMER VACATION SAFETY TIPS



School summer vacations are approaching, giving children and youth more free time to engage in a range of activities. Help children make smart decisions to keep themselves safe! Below are summer vacation safety tips for you to share with the children and youth in your life.

### Tips for children:

- Tell kids to play in groups where they are less vulnerable to an approach by strangers.
- Let children know that they should always tell their caregivers where they are going and who they're playing with.
- Talk with children about drugs, violence, and other problems they may encounter.
- Teach children about Internet safety. Let them know that they should never give out their names, addresses, phone numbers, or any other personal information online.

### Tips for youth:

Older kids have more freedom and consequently face higher risks of getting into trouble during summer vacation. These tips, in addition to the ones above, can help them stay safe:

- Tell teens who are driving to always lock the car doors and take their keys when they leave their cars.
- Remind youth to tell a caregiver where they are going, who they will be with, and when they plan to return.
- Encourage youth to stick to well-lighted, well-traveled streets at all times.
- Work with youth and parents to ensure that young people have a safe, positive, and attractive alternative to hanging out in the mall or on the street.

Keep children and youth safe by sharing these tips and other crime prevention strategies. For more safety tips, NCPC offers *Tips With Thanks From McGruff the Crime Dog* (single copy free), which can be ordered from 800-NCPC-911 or [www.mcgruffstore.org](http://www.mcgruffstore.org). Request Item F23.

## NCPC PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

NCPC provides adults who work with children and youth a variety of programs designed to educate students about crime and engage them in their communities. In the pages that follow, we have provided you with a short overview of these programs. We encourage you to consider these programs as you plan for the 2006–2007 school year.



**The final deadline for the TCC \$500 crime prevention mini-grant application is June 1, 2006.** These grants are intended to encourage youth crime prevention, community service, and civic responsibility. To obtain a copy of the grant application and guidelines, visit [www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org) and click on TCC under the “Programs” link.

In addition, TCC is looking for teens ages 14-19 to help review completed grant applications. Teens reviewing grants have the opportunity to learn about engaging in service. In appreciation for reviewing the applications, teens will receive an NCPC publication, T-shirt, and key chain.

For more information, contact Belén Pereira at [bpereira@ncpc.org](mailto:bpereira@ncpc.org).

**McGruff Club** is being piloted at Boys & Girls Clubs in the following cities:

- Ada, OK
- Buffalo, NY
- Farmington Hills, MI
- Hayward, WI
- Los Angeles, CA
- Marlborough, MA
- North East, MD
- Philadelphia, PA
- San Diego, CA
- Sarasota, FL
- Spartanburg, SC

## TEENS, CRIME, AND THE COMMUNITY

The Teens, Crime, and the Community (TCC) initiative was created to reduce alarmingly high rates of teen victimization and to engage young people in their communities. The program teaches teens ways to protect themselves from crime and provides them with opportunities to develop safer, more vital communities. TCC seeks to tap and focus teens’ energy, talent, and enthusiasm so they can participate in their communities as responsible citizens.

TCC’s curriculum, *Community Works*, is designed to teach youth how to examine violence and law-related issues in the context of their schools and communities and apply what they learn to real-life circumstances. The 11 sessions in Volume One of *Community Works* lay the foundation for the program. Here young people begin to get the “big picture” of their community. They learn about the different types of crime, the costs and consequences of crime, conflict management strategies, how crime affects communities, and what community prevention programs and services are available to them. The sessions in Volume One build on each other—first introducing factual information, then giving young people the opportunity to practice critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving skills. The sessions in Volume Two focus on some of the serious, youth-related topical issues like bullying, dating violence, gangs, substance abuse, underage drinking, and police-youth relations. The involvement of community resource people and the completion of at least one service-learning project complete the comprehensive program.

To order *Community Works* (\$119, plus shipping), visit [www.mcgruffstore.org](http://www.mcgruffstore.org) or call 800-NCPC-911, and request item K31.

For more information about TCC, visit [www.ncpc.org/programs/tcc](http://www.ncpc.org/programs/tcc) or contact [tcc@ncpc.org](mailto:tcc@ncpc.org).

## McGruff® Club

McGruff Club is a new program created by the National Crime Prevention Council to educate children (ages six to ten) on what they can do to stay safe, prevent crime and violence in their communities, and participate in projects designed to make their communities safer. McGruff Club is currently being piloted at Boys & Girls Clubs across the country.

The goals of McGruff Club are as follows:

- Raise awareness among children on ways they can ensure their personal safety and security
- Engage children in service projects designed to make their communities safer
- Raise awareness among children of McGruff the Crime Dog® as a trusted source of information on how to stay safe from crime
- Educate children on what they can do to prevent crime and violence in their communities
- Foster positive relationships among children, law enforcement officers, and other community members

McGruff Club members meet once a week for 45-minute sessions. During the meetings, the children identify safety concerns, learn how to stay safe, engage in service projects, and reflect upon and celebrate their projects. All children in McGruff Club explore the topics of safe and unsafe neighborhoods, conflict management, bullying, and dangerous situations in the neighborhood. Individual clubs may address additional issues based on the concerns of the children, which may include diversity, Internet safety, guns and other weapons, and home safety.

Through McGruff Club, children will become engaged in their communities and learn about safety while having fun with their friends and adults who care for them.

McGruff Club helps children foster life skills and offers them tangible benefits. Members receive a membership kit containing various McGruff items. McGruff Club adult facilitators receive a resource toolkit to help them teach children about crime prevention and safety.

For more information about McGruff Club, contact Joselle Shea at [jshea@ncpc.org](mailto:jshea@ncpc.org).

## YOUTH OUTREACH FOR VICTIM ASSISTANCE

The Youth Outreach for Victim Assistance (YOVA) project, created by NCPC and the National Center for Victims of Crime (the National Center), is designed to raise awareness and prevent youth victimization by mobilizing youth and adults to create public awareness campaigns in their communities. YOVA also strives to improve the quality and accessibility of services to help teen victims of crime by supplying resources to victim service providers and encouraging teen victims to seek help.

Although teens are victimized by crime at alarmingly high rates, many teens do not report the incident or seek help. Teens need resources to help them respond to threats to their safety such as dating violence, bullying, hate crimes, sexual harassment, and assault. By becoming involved in a YOVA campaign, you can help raise awareness and prevent teen victimization.

YOVA is currently seeking applicants to participate in the project during the 2006–2007 school year. At least 20 new sites will be selected to participate. Each site will receive no more than \$3,000 to plan and implement a youth-led public awareness campaign. Campaign projects may include public service announcements, poster campaigns, websites, workshops, and assemblies. Each site selected to participate in YOVA will send two youth and one adult to a training session in August 2006, and NCPC and the National Center will provide ongoing technical assistance to all sites.

To view the grant application and learn more details about YOVA and the current YOVA sites, visit [www.ncpc.org/programs/yova/](http://www.ncpc.org/programs/yova/).

## BE SAFE AND SOUND

The mission of the Be Safe and Sound campaign is to raise awareness of school safety and security issues and provide concrete measures that parents, community members, and educators can take to make schools safer and more secure.

Be Safe and Sound is a national NCPC initiative conducted in collaboration with National PTA and the following partners, The Allstate Foundation, ASSA ABLOY Group, Nextel Communications, and Security Industry Association.

Be Safe and Sound promotes a comprehensive approach to school safety that addresses both physical and social climate issues, while engaging all stakeholders. The steps in the program model are as follows:

- Form an action team.
- Identify safety and security problems.
- Involve all stakeholders in developing solutions.
- Develop and implement an action plan.
- Build support through publicity and advocacy.
- Evaluate success and revise the plan.

To help you learn more about school safety and security, the Be Safe and Sound campaign offers two resources, the *Caregivers' Guide to School Safety and Security* (single copy free) and the *School Safety and Security Toolkit: A Guide for Parents, Schools, and Communities* (CD-ROM, single copy free). To order these resources, call 800-NCPC-911 or visit [www.mcgruffstore.org](http://www.mcgruffstore.org), and request items M83 and CD1-A respectively.

For more information about Be Safe and Sound, visit [www.ncpc.org/programs/bssc/](http://www.ncpc.org/programs/bssc/).

**Apply to be a YOVA project site!** Applications for the 2006–2007 YOVA grants are due May 15, 2006. Visit [www.ncpc.org/programs/yova/](http://www.ncpc.org/programs/yova/) for more information and to download a grant application. Or contact Meghan Sharp, program associate, at 202-261-4160 or [msharp@ncpc.org](mailto:msharp@ncpc.org).



**Have you used Be Safe and Sound's School Safety and Security Toolkit?** If so, please contact Meghan Sharp, program associate, at 202-261-4160 or [msharp@ncpc.org](mailto:msharp@ncpc.org). Or visit [www.ncpc.org/programs/bssc/](http://www.ncpc.org/programs/bssc/) and complete the online "Register Your Site" form.



**Involved in a YAR site?**  
If so, please contact [tcc@ncpc.org](mailto:tcc@ncpc.org) to reconnect with the National Crime Prevention Council.

## YOUTH AS RESOURCES

The Youth as Resources (YAR) program is a flexible, comprehensive, youth development model that recognizes youth as valuable community resources and lends itself to a variety of environments and circumstances. YAR was created in 1986 by NCPC and the Lilly Foundation. Although YAR is an international program, it was designed to connect youth to their local communities by engaging them in partnerships with adults to create positive community change.

YAR is focused on three principles: youth-adult partnerships, grantmaking, and youth-led service. The youth-adult partnerships allow both parties to develop a relationship based on trust, respect, and responsibility toward each other. When youth and adults work together on a YAR board, they learn from each other, creating a dynamic of reciprocal mentoring. Youth-led service allows young people to design, plan, and organize a project that addresses a social issue or contributes to positive community change.

YAR gives youth a stake in their communities. Moreover, YAR grants help create programs and events that benefit entire communities.

NCPC no longer actively supports YAR, but if you are involved in an operating YAR site, please reconnect with NCPC by contacting [tcc@ncpc.org](mailto:tcc@ncpc.org).

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## 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* site or Youth Safety Corps program and would like to share some of the highlights and challenges, service project success, and the impact that the program has had on your students and the broader community, please email Lori Brittain at [lbrittain@ncpc.org](mailto:lbrittain@ncpc.org).



**If you have questions about NCPC's programs for children and youth, email [tcc@ncpc.org](mailto:tcc@ncpc.org).**