



Teens, Crime, and
TCC the Community

TEENS, CRIME, AND THE COMMUNITY

YOUTH IN SERVICE



PREVENTING VANDALISM



Vandalism is the willful destruction or defacing of property, and a prevalent problem among youth. Vandalism is expensive to repair and makes communities unattractive and unsafe.

A major component of vandalism—graffiti—gives criminals the impression that residents don't care about their neighborhood; and a neighborhood that doesn't care is an easy target for crime. Moreover, vandalism can cause people to feel angry, hurt, and frightened when something of theirs is destroyed for no reason. Vandalism has indirect victims as well. People can be involved in car accidents because stop signs were stolen, or someone in need of help may not be able to call 911 because the pay phone was purposely broken.

Some teens vandalize for a variety of reasons. They may be bored, angry, seeking revenge, rebelling against authority figures, or feeling peer pressure. You can help prevent teen vandalism by teaching session 23 of *Community Works*, entitled "Vandalism: What You Can Do." For a free, electronic copy of session 23, email tcc@ncpc.org with your request. You can also help prevent graffiti by sharing the following prevention tips with students.

What You Can Do To Prevent Graffiti:

- Get educated. Learn about graffiti, how it impacts your community, and who is responsible for graffiti prevention and clean up in your community.
- Report graffiti to the appropriate authorities.
- Organize a paint-out. Gather supplies and community volunteers to remove graffiti in your neighborhood.
- Plan a paint brush mural to cover a wall continuously plagued with graffiti.
- Coordinate a graffiti awareness campaign at your school or in the community.
- Make a presentation on graffiti prevention to your school, class, or neighborhood group.
- Adopt a spot in your school or community and make sure it stays clean and free of graffiti.
- Ask your community to install lighting in areas that are dark and often hit with graffiti.

(Tips from the Graffiti Hurts fact sheet, Prevent Graffiti: Get the Facts, "Ten Things You Can Do To Prevent Graffiti", www.graffitihurts.org.)



For more tips on how to teach teens about vandalism prevention, including service-learning project ideas, check out the *Community Works* online session enhancements for session 23, available at www.ncpc.org/tcc.

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FEATURED
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- NCPC's blog is updated twice a week regarding emerging issues in crime prevention. Check it out at www.ncpc.org.
- Don't forget to complete the *Community Works* user survey before the end of your semester. You can complete the survey online at www.ncpc.org/tcc. The survey takes roughly 5 to 10 minutes to complete.
- If you work with young children, check out the newly redesigned McGruff.org website for crime prevention themed activities, stories, and games.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



No Name Calling Week
January 22-26, 2007
A week of educational activities focused on eliminating bullying.
For more information contact:
www.nonamecallingweek.org

Putting the Pieces Together for Children and Families: The National Conference on Substance Abuse, Child Welfare, and the Courts
January 31-February 2, 2007
Anaheim, CA
Contact:
www.cffutures.org

National Crime Prevention Council
8th National Conference on Preventing Crime
October 3-5, 2007
Atlanta, GA
Contact:
www.ncpc.org/NationalConference2007

ELIMINATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



November 25th is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The day, also known as White Ribbon Day, was created by a United Nations resolution in 1999, to build public awareness of the worldwide problem of violence against women. The United Nations Development Fund for Women states that “wearing a white ribbon is a personal pledge not to commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women and children.”

You can teach teens about preventing violence against women by explaining the significance of White Ribbon Day, and using *Community Works* session 14: Dating Violence, Recognize and Prevent in your classroom. You can also encourage teens to develop a service-learning project focused on White Ribbon Day. For service-learning projects with a preventing teen dating violence theme, check out the *Community Works* online session enhancements for session 14 at www.ncpc.org/tcc.

For a free, electronic copy of session 14, email tcc@ncpc.org with your request.

TAKING A BITE OUT OF CYBER CRIME



The National Crime Prevention Council has partnered with the Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) Council and the Forum to Advance the Mobile Experience (FAME) to create the “Take a Bite Out of Cyber Crime” public awareness campaign. The campaign, funded by a coalition of private sector partners, will help empower and rally millions of computer and digital device users in the battle against the continually growing plague of computer viruses, worms, spam, spyware, phishing, identity theft, and online predators.

The cybercrime campaign recently published a booklet entitled *Mind What You Do Online*, which includes computer safety and security information for parents regarding keeping their home, work, and children’s computers safe. For more information on the campaign, and to download the *Mind What You Do Online* booklet, visit www.bytecrime.org.

You can share the information in the *Mind What You Do Online* booklet with parents when you teach the two new *Community Works* sessions regarding Internet safety (that are slated to come out this winter).

CW INSTRUCTOR STIPEND UPDATE

Community Works instructors who have returned a *Community Works* Site Agreement Form will receive additional information regarding instructor stipends in December 2006. If you are a CW instructor who has not returned a Site Agreement Form to the national TCC office, please download the form from www.ncpc.org/tcc, complete it, and return it to the national TCC office as soon as possible.

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