

**COOK COUNTY SHERIFF
YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT
THOMAS J. DART, SHERIFF
773-674-4711**

The Cook County Sheriff Youth Services Department offers educational programs to students, teachers, parents, and other youth serving professionals. These programs are designed to provide the knowledge and skills necessary to prevent harmful and risky behavior and enhance the well-being of individuals in the community. Prevention programs offered address current issues related to youth especially in the area of violence. Please contact our office at 773-674-4711 to schedule one of our free programs or discuss how our staff can assist your prevention efforts.

PROGRAMS

S.A.V.E. (Students Against Violent Encounters)

S.A.V.E. is a two-session bullying prevention and conflict resolution program for students in grades 1 - 4. In this program children learn to identify bullying behavior, understand why some children bully and different ways to deal with bullies in a non-violent manner.

STOP THE BULLYING

A two-session violence prevention program that teaches students in grades 5-8 how to identify and understand the problem of bullying and harassment. Students learn the cause of, effects of, and non-violent solutions to bullying through age appropriate activities and discussions.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

This 4-session program, for students in 5th - 6th grades, teaches basic skills of peaceful conflict resolution including anger management, problem-solving and communication skills.

PEER MEDIATION

A two-day training in which junior high or high school students learn how to mediate conflict between their peers in a fair and peaceful manner. The training also includes information about implementing a successful peer mediation program.

LOVES ME...LOVES ME NOT

This prevention program for junior high and high school students is designed to define healthy relationships and promote youth awareness about teen dating violence. The purpose of the program is to: define abuse, alert students to the possible warning signs of dating violence and provide help and referrals if there is a problem.

R.E.S.P.E.C.T. (Respecting Everyone So People Embrace Cultural Togetherness)

This program facilitates open dialogue with students about diversity, race and culture helping them to understand and reject discrimination, victimization, bigotry and hate. The target audience is 4th - 8th grade students and the program can be facilitated in 1 or 2 sessions.

INTERNET SAFETY FOR KIDS

This program discusses the importance of following safety rules when using the Internet. Discussion centers on positive uses of the Internet as well as the problems young people can easily encounter. This program is best suited for students in 5th - 8th grade.

MIND YOUR KIDS' BUSINESS

This program was developed to help increase parents' and other adults' knowledge of Internet safety information and guidelines. The one-hour session includes information on protecting children while using the Internet; how young people are using the Internet; social networking sites; electronic bullying; and how to report and block illegal or questionable Internet activity.

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR JUVENILE FIRST OFFENDERS

An educational alternative to prosecution for youth age 17 and younger who are arrested for possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. Participants attend two sessions totaling five hours. Parents are required to attend the second session. This program is currently operating for the 3rd, 4th and 5th Municipal Court Districts.

THINK TWICE: LEGAL CONSEQUENCES OF CRIME

This program is an interactive presentation targeted for grades 7-12 to educate students about the consequences of committing crime as well as personal and legal ramifications. The program focuses on activities young people are more likely to be involved in such as fighting, drugs, drinking & driving, theft, and gun violence.

S.M.A.R.T. (Sheriff's Motivational and Responsibility Training)

S.M.A.R.T. is a two part program for students in 8th grade about responsible decision making and the direct consequences of decisions involving criminal behavior. The first part of the program is a one-hour classroom presentation taught by uniformed officers which includes discussion of gang and criminal activity, as well as decision-making and consequences. The second part is a tour of the Cook County Jail which will include a panel discussion with detainees of the jail. The program is not designed to frighten or disturb students but rather to empower them with positive decision making strategies.

SAFETY TOWN

Safety Town is an interactive and educational program on traffic safety for youth ages 5-8. In this program children enter a miniature city in pedal cars enabling them to get a hands-on learning experience. Safety Town is available during the months of May through August to park districts, schools, churches, block parties, police districts, and other community groups

SPECIAL PROJECTS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND RECOGNITION

SHERIFF'S YOUTH SERVICE MEDAL OF HONOR

This program was established to recognize Cook County youth that volunteered a minimum of 100 hours of service during the previous year. High school students who meet the necessary criteria are honored at a ceremony where Sheriff Thomas J. Dart presents the awards.

ILLINOIS SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Youth Services Department coordinates an annual scholarship program for students residing in Cook County. Three scholarships are awarded to students who will be attending a college or university in Illinois in the next academic year.

REAL TALK BLOG

Young people have the opportunity to log into a Youth Services Department website to discuss current issues of the day. This blog is promoted through our programs and students are encouraged to "log on" to ask further questions or to post comments about a variety of topics.

SHERIFF THOMAS J. DART'S SUMMER YOUTH CAMPS

The Youth Services Department works with local police departments and other community organizations to provide summer camps for youth. Participants benefit from spending time with positive adult role models while participating in educational and recreational activities.