



Creative Activity Ideas to Promote Safe Driving

Ghost Out Day –

A group of students are selected to be “ghosts” or representatives of teens killed in crashes. These students do not speak throughout the school day and are dressed in black t-shirts imprinted with the words “DUI” on the front and “Killed Me” on the back. Their faces are painted white to simulate a “ghost.” Announcements & statistics about impaired driving are made throughout the day. Posters with facts about impaired driving are displayed throughout the school. (Purchase inexpensive black t-shirts and use white fabric paint for the t-shirt imprints.) Wording on the t-shirts can be changed for seat belt or other safety promotion.

Grim Reaper Day –

A student dressed as the Grim Reaper “silences” a student every 40 minutes as a representation of how often a drunk driver kills someone in the U.S. The students selected must stay silent the remainder of the school day and their faces are painted white. Each time a student is “silenced” his/her name is announced over the P.A. to emphasize the frequency of how often a drunk driver kills.

Crashed Car Display –

Contact a local wrecker or towing company to set up a wrecked car in a visible area at the school. Design posters (or host a school-wide poster contest) with facts and information about causes of teen crashes to display with the crashed car. Posters can be mounted to stakes and posted in the ground leading up to the car. Hang a banner with the heading “I Pledge to Drive Alcohol and Drug Free” for students to sign. The banner can be saved and displayed at prom and/or graduation.

Mock Party –

A mock party can demonstrate the negative effects of underage drinking. Organize a group of students who will be the actors. Recruit a teacher to pose as a parent and your school resource officer to conduct the arrests. Write a script that progresses through the stages of partying (getting the alcohol, beginning to drink, getting rowdy, having the cops called, etc.). An older sibling or the parent can be the person who provides the alcohol to the teens. You can show what would happen to that person for contributing to the delinquency of a minor and the implication of underage drinking. You could also show a teen driving home after leaving the party and getting in a wreck. Act out the Mock Party at the school pep rally or an event for upper classmen.

Mock Crash –

Work with local, police, fire, and rescue to set up a mock crash to be viewed by the entire school. Many departments use these mock crashes as training exercises so most are happy to do them for the schools. Write a script for the mock crash based on a “party/prom/graduation” theme and have the teens leave the party with an impaired driver. Select a student who speaks well to moderate the crash or tape the script and play it back during the event. Select students to be the actors in the mock crash. Local fire and rescue will “paint” on their wounds for the mock crash.

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For more info, contact:
YOVASO (Youth of VA Speak Out)
www.yovaso.net

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Creative Activity Ideas Continued:

Please Be Safe Letters –

Ask English teachers in the elementary school or middle school to have their students write letters to the juniors and seniors asking them to enjoy their prom and to please drive safely. The letters can be distributed to each junior and senior during homeroom on the Friday before prom. Letters can also be written to the seniors congratulating them on their graduation and asking them to celebrate and drive safely. The letters can be distributed to the seniors in homeroom prior to graduation. Make sure you give the teachers the exact number of juniors and seniors so you have enough letters to hand out. Club members should make a presentation or provide hand-outs on safe driving to the younger students with information and facts they can use in the letters.

Prom/Graduation Chain –

Set up a table during junior and senior lunches and have the juniors and seniors sign colorful strips of paper that say, "I Will Do My Part to Keep Our Future Safe by Buckling Up and Driving Alcohol and Drug Free on Prom/Graduation Night." Glue or tape each signed pledge into a loop and tape the pledges together into a chain. The chain can be displayed in the junior/senior hall or in the main hall of the school along with a banner that states the pledge. It can also be moved to the prom location for prom night. The same idea can be used for seniors at graduation.

Skeleton Display –

Borrow a skeleton from the science department or purchase one through an educational catalog. Dress the skeleton in a prom dress or tux for prom season, cap and gown for graduation, or current fashion for other celebrations. Display the skeleton in the lobby of the school with a sign that has an appropriate message for your event, such as "Not the Look You Want for Prom? Please Buckle Up and Don't Drink and Drive."

C U Alive - Texting Safety Tree -

Set up a table in the cafeteria during school lunches and encourage students to sign up to receive a text message on Fridays and Saturdays or on prom/graduation night reminding them to buckle up and drive alcohol and drug free. The registration forms should include the student's name, grade, cell phone number, and a signature line. Have your club come up with fun safety messages to text to participating students and divide up responsibility for sending the messages.

Distractagories –

A fun mash-up of Scattergories and traffic safety. Make a 4x4 chart and choose a different letter for each column and a traffic safety category for each row. Divide students into small groups. The groups' task is to fill in each of the sixteen blocks with one answer that fits the category and also begins with the proper letter. (For example, if the category is "something you find in school" and the letters are H, L, P, and B, students could write health class, lockers, pencils, and books). Groups score points only for having answers that no other group came up with, which encourages groups to work more quietly and be more creative. Game can be given to each home room teacher and played when there is free-time.

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Mock DUI Stop –

Instead of a Mock Crash, hold a Mock DUI Check. Ask your local state police or sheriff's office to perform a mock DUI stop in front of your school. The officer will stop a student who is portraying a drunk driver, administer DUI tests, and make an arrest.

Middle School Lock-In –

Sponsor a 3-4 hour lock-in on a Friday or Saturday night for middle school students from your community. Play games, provide snacks, hold dance contests, and organize fun traffic safety activities (using DUI goggles, Wii games, tricycles, etc.). Charge a small fee per student and use it as a fundraiser for your club.

YOVASO Club Day—

Hold a YOVASO club day at your school and provide YOVASO ribbons, stickers, wrist bands, or candy attached with safety messages to all students. Make announcements throughout the day about YOVASO and teen driver safety and have a YOVASO table set up where students can join or can sign a pledge to always buckle up and drive safely. Have all club members wear their YOVASO t-shirts and encourage all students to wear the YOVASO club colors.

Club Night –

Sponsor a club night for all clubs at your high school. Work with the other clubs to make sure all members are invited. Plan fun games, contests, speakers, and other activities enjoyed by teens. Make sure you have a D.J. and food, and the night will be a huge success—plus it will keep teens off the streets on a Friday or Saturday night.

The Face of Traffic Safety –

Set up a Facebook account to promote your YOVASO Club and/or safe teen driving efforts. Create some videos that promote traffic safety and upload them from everyone to see. Make sure to include a pledge wall on your Facebook and give teens some links to great resources they can use. Don't forget to include the YOVASO website (www.yovaso.net) as one of your resources!

Seat Belt Fashion Show-

Organize a groups of students to design fun, colorful, and different seat belts to wear in a fashion show during lunch or after school. Have each student walk the "runway" and then read a seat belt statistic. This will be a lot of fun and remind students to always buckle up.

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DUI Goggles –

Check with your school resource officer to see if he/she has access to DUI goggles through the police department or contact the YOVASO office. Simple games can be set up during lunch, such as walking the line wearing goggles or touching the finger to the nose. The club could also talk with the principal about organizing a fun sports game at the end of the school day where the goggles are worn by teams. A “tricycle basketball game” where students vs faculty ride tricycles wearing the goggles and try to make a baskets is always fun. Similar games using soft foam balls, such as dodge ball, kick ball, tennis, and ping pong would also work. The games could also be set up during half-time of a home sports game, such as baseball, soccer, basketball, football, etc.

Catch Those Z’s –

Sponsor an exciting poster contest on the topic of preventing drowsy driving. Include some statistics, have a catchy slogan or title, use graphics, be creative! To promote the contest, cut out large Z’s out of construction paper and write the details of your project on them. Pass out the Z’s at lunch or in the school parking lot before or after school.

Hall of Shame—

Ask teachers in the art department to have students design posters based on the tragedy of drinking and driving. Posters may include the tragic facts, newspaper clippings about DUI fatalities, poems, etc. Display these posters along the hallways and have students vote on them. Winning categories could include: Most Creative, Best Message, Best Impact, etc. A large banner in the hallway could say: “Hall of Shame.” Work with local businesses to get donations for prizes.

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