

Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week February 5-9, 2007

The following is a suggested schedule of events to get you and your group started (also see the sample activities in our “Call to Youth”). Feel free to create your own schedule and events for the week.

Before the Week

- Get Youth involved early! Give them the “Call to Youth” and attached activities.
- Discuss your plans with your school principal. Be flexible about the timing of your school’s week but get it on the calendar as soon as possible.
- Display awareness posters and include the dates that your school will observe the week.
- Photocopy the prevention recommendations and enlist help in disseminating the information. Utilize organizations such as student groups, parent teacher associations, and booster clubs to distribute them to teens, teachers, school security, parents, and community members. Everyone has a role in recognizing and responding to dating violence, and this can be a good way to get their support.
- Consider partnering with community domestic violence and rape crisis agencies in your area to prepare for possible disclosures of dating violence and/or sexual abuse, and to utilize their expertise in safety planning. Be sure to utilize hotlines as needed (please refer to your tool kit for contact information).

Day One: Monday February 5th

KICK-OFF EVENT:

- Have a school assembly to show the Center for Disease Control’s “Choose Respect” Video. Break into groups to respond to the questions in the video discussion guide and/or invite an area service provider to speak about issues of dating and sexual violence. Consider showing the 13-minute video in the classrooms to facilitate small group discussion.
- Launch a Dating Violence Awareness/Prevention Contest (*see “Call to Youth”*).
- Distribute materials such as the Facts Sheets, Warning Signs, Sexual Assault Handouts, and Teen Legal Rights Brochures after the assembly. Distribute the information to ALL students to avoid missing students that are too afraid to get the materials in front of their peers.

Day Two-Five: Tuesday February 6th- Thursday February 9th

- Encourage youth groups to utilize some of the Outreach and Education Ideas (*see “Call to Youth”*).
- Use the Fact Sheets and Warning Signs to create daily morning announcements that educate teachers, staff, and students.

(continued)

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

- Encourage all teachers to select activities from the American Bar Association's Teacher Guide or the Center for Disease Control's teacher's manual for use in their classroom at least one day during the week. There is an appropriate activity for most subjects.

After the Week:

- Announce/Display Dating Violence Awareness/Prevention Contest Winners.
- Follow up with students about their reaction to the awareness week.
- Complete your evaluation form and return it to *Teen Justice at the Women's Advocacy Project, PO Box 833, Austin, TX 78767 c/o Bronwyn Blake.*
- Consider partnering with community domestic violence and rape crisis agencies in your area to see if they can provide a training to youth who are interested in continuing to address teen dating violence.
- Consider starting up single-sex support groups for teens, like the Expect Respect school-based services program out of SafePlace in Austin, Texas.
- Consider establishing policies and procedures to address bullying and sexual harassment to increase teen safety.

GOOD LUCK!