



## **METH DESTROYS: THE HIGH IS A LIE YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**



Youth Leadership Council (YLC) – A coalition of high school students across Polk County coming together to learn how to fight the spread of meth in their communities. The Council's efforts will be facilitated primarily through **METH DESTROYS: THE HIGH IS A LIE** campaign. A website will be created in order that YLC members will be able to share ideas on spreading the campaign's message, post their own ideas, share success stories, request campaign materials and learn more about this drug.

Polk County, Florida has been one of the leading counties in the country for meth labs and the distribution of meth. Law enforcement has been proficient in destroying a lot of the meth labs, but our focus now shifts to imported meth and the importance of early education in the fight against the drug. The campaign's hope is that when youth spread the word about meth's consequences to their peers, the message is heard loud and clear: **METH DESTROYS: THE HIGH IS A LIE.**

Want to take action in the fight against meth? Here are a few suggestions to start:

1. Set up a booth in front of your local discount department store, grocery store, movie theater or other spot where people in your community visit and hand out information on methamphetamine (pamphlets provided by M.A.M.A.)
2. Get a video camera and start interviewing youth in your area about what they know about meth and other drugs. Use the footage to make a documentary and see if you can have it aired at your school and other local schools, churches, civic clubs, local cable access networks or on your local network news.
3. Work with students at your school to write and perform a short play about teenage meth abuse to be presented to the entire student body at an upcoming assembly.
4. Organize a concert (local bands, big names, the high school marching band, the towns barbershop quartet or use your imagination!) to benefit meth rehabilitation programs.
5. Work with local law enforcement officials to organize a video conference with an inmate serving time for making, using or distributing meth.
6. Write a letter to the editor of your local daily or community newspaper outlining the importance of educating Polk County and the surrounding communities about meth.
7. Invite a reporter from your local newspaper or television station any time your class is making a meth-related presentation.
8. Invite representatives from an anti-meth partner organization to speak at your school or a community function.
9. Ask students to write their own public service announcements to be made during school announcements.
10. Work with your local law enforcement to create a flier educating students on what to do if they suspect either meth production or use in their community.
11. Invite a mental health professional to speak to your class or school on the mental effects of meth use.

## TESTIMONY OF AN YOUTH:

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## DO'S AND DON'TS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE:

- Do have fun
- Do get your friends and family involved
- Do be creative
- Do use your existing resources – you don't have to spend money
- Do be relaxed
- Don't get discouraged because of stereotypes about youth
- Don't let the "no, you can't do that." Response get you down

## COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Are you a member of the Youth Leadership Council? Have you been working hard to spread the message to members of your community that **METH DESTROYS**? If so, you might qualify for the next **METH DESTROYS: COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**.

This Community Service Award will be announced at the Youth Leadership Council Summit, honoring the accomplishments of **METH DESTROYS** Youth Leadership Council members who demonstrate dedication to increasing public awareness of the devastating effects of methamphetamine through creative community service projects. To be considered for a **METH DESTROYS: COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**, members should complete a project entry form.