

YOUTH DRIVEN

TRAFFIC SAFETY & LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



INFORMATION BOOKLET

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

INTRODUCTION

YOUTH DRIVEN

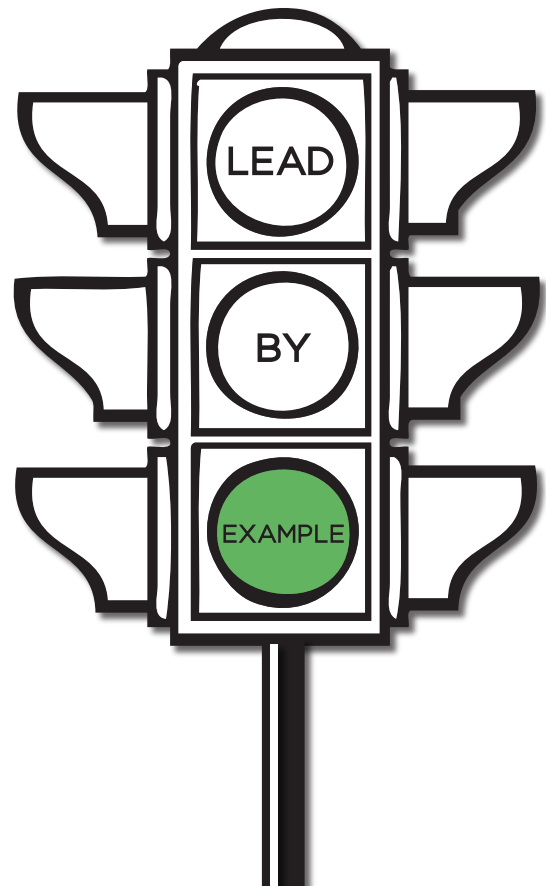
TRAFFIC SAFETY & LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

YOUTH DRIVEN is a traffic safety and leadership program, led by the Rhode Island Student Assistance Services and supported by the Rhode Island Department of Transportation Office on Highway Safety.



The mission of YOUTH DRIVEN is to provide Rhode Island youth and their adult advisors with the motivation, information, skills and support necessary to organize events and activities that support Traffic Safety efforts within their communities. Safety campaigns targeting distracted driving, impaired driving, and speeding, as well as, alcohol and drug free prevention strategies are examples of planned topic areas to be covered.

At YOUTH DRIVEN we educate and empower students about highway safety topics, and we give students the opportunity to develop their innate leadership skills to keep themselves, their schools and their communities safe and strong. We encourage students to make healthy decisions, surround themselves with others who support them and to always lead by example.



YOUTH DRIVEN SUMMIT

YOUTH DRIVEN is a year round high school program which begins with a educational summit. Over the course of the 3 and a half day summit high school students will learn components of traffic safety with a focus on substance abuse prevention strategies and safe decision making skills. Students will have the opportunity to develop their innate leadership skills to keep themselves, their schools and their communities safe and strong. Participants will create action plans to take back to their respective schools and communities to implement over the course of the school year. This program is open to any Rhode Island high school student entering 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade fall of the following year.



WHAT HAPPENS
AT THE **SUMMIT?**

SCHOOLS CREATE AN
ACTION PLAN TO IMPLEMENT
DURING THE FOLLOWING
SCHOOL YEAR

LEARN ABOUT
TRAFFIC SAFETY ISSUES
& LEADERSHIP SKILLS

MAKE NEW FRIENDS
& HAVE A BLAST!

GETTING STARTED

Starting a YOUTH DRIVEN at your school is easy.
Just follow these simple steps to get started.



ESTABLISH ADULT ADVISOR

In order for your YOUTH DRIVEN to succeed you will need the assistance of an adult advisor to help implement the action plan you create at our summit. It is preferred that your adult advisor works at your school, it could be a teacher, counselor, coach, school resource officer, anyone who is willing to help lead your group to success. You can also ask a parent of a student within the group to help in this role too. The more adults you have on board the more successful your club will be.



MEET WITH YOUR PRINCIPAL

It is important to meet with your principal to educate and inform them about your club and the action plan you are looking to complete during the school year. Make sure to prepare a short presentation about what YOUTH DRIVEN is all about and your action plan. By educating the principal and administration they will be able to understand your goals and possibly be able to help your club with guest presentations and other resources in the school and community who would be willing to help, such as prevention coalitions.



IDENTIFY STUDENT LEADERS

Now that you have an adult advisor and you have spoken to your principal you now have to identify student leaders within your YOUTH DRIVEN group. It is important for each member to share the responsibilities but in every group you need to identify a few student leaders to keep the group on task. Remember that your group is inclusive to the entire school community and many students involved from different sports, clubs and grades. Lastly, never forget to show kindness to acceptance to everyone in the club.



RECRUIT/BUILD CLUB

Building your clubs members will take time and here are a few ways to get other students attention.

- ◆ Have an information table at your schools club fair and at homecoming.
- ◆ Share your clubs next meeting date on the morning announcements.
- ◆ Create a short video inviting students to join and share it through your schools email or through your clubs social media page.
- ◆ Join already established prevention clubs at your school such as Above The Influence (ATI) or Students Agents Destructive Decisions (SADD).



MAKE IT HAPPEN

**CHOOSE A LOCATION
& TIME TO MEET**

Choose a convenient time during or after school for your group to meet and plan upcoming events.

**CONNECT WITH SCHOOL
& COMMUNITY**

Tell your school and community about your group. Meet with your principle, school committee, local news papers.

**START SMALL
&
KEEP IT SIMPLE**

You have to start somewhere and we encourage you to dream big but start small. Over time your group will grow and so will you.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

In order to encourage and lead other students you must first be willing to lead by example. Practice what you preach.



YOUTH DRIVEN YEAR CALENDAR

SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	JAN.
<p>Contact Victim family that your school was assigned during the summit.</p> <p>Find Adult Advisor</p> <p>Meet with principal</p>	<p>National Teen Driver Safety Week.</p>	<p>Have a info. table at homecoming and recruit.</p> <p>Traffic Safety Holiday safety messaging</p>	<p>Send Holiday/Thinking of you card to your Victim Family.</p> <p>Traffic Safety Holiday safety messaging</p>	
FEB.	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<p>Inform group about Summit and how to apply.</p>		<p>National Distracted Driving Awareness Month</p>	<p>National Youth Traffic Safety Month. Plan a week long of events to keep your school and community safe. Seatbelt Safety, distracted driving education.</p>	<p>Review the year and celebrate with a meeting/party.</p> <p>(Graduation Season)</p>

YOUTH DRIVEN PROGRAM IDEAS

EASY IDEAS

- Create a bulletin board with traffic safety facts
- Read traffic safety facts over the morning announcements.

MEDIUM IDEAS

- Create a traffic safety pledge for students to sign and post somewhere in school.
- Create social media page for your group and post statistics from NHTSA Traffic Safety Marketing Tools website at : www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov

DIFFICULT YET POSSIBLE IDEAS

- Organize an entire week dedicated to traffic safety topics, like distracted driving, seat belts, drunk driving, impaired driving & speeding.
- Conduct a seatbelt survey while students arrive at school to see how many people were not wearing seatbelts.
- Create a PSA educating your school community about a traffic safety topics such as distracted driving, seat belts, drunk driving, impaired driving & speeding.

