

January 14, 2022

Dear Teacher / Parent / Responsible Adult:

Spring brings a focus on prevention including Alcohol Awareness Month held each April. Please consider the following as you think about the young people you know:

1. **All youth face risk.** Not exactly the same risks, at the same time, or to the same degree. But all youth are faced with circumstances and choices that shape their lives. Prevention means equipping youth to make the best possible choices.
2. **Alcohol will intersect nearly every life.** Drinking while underage can be life altering. Understanding why alcohol poses specific dangers to youth is essential! We must do everything possible to empower young people to say "no" to underage drinking and have tools to defend their decision.

Enter the 27th Annual Alcohol Awareness Poster Contest for grades 6 – 12!

It is a fun and easy way to introduce a touch of prevention to your classroom or youth group, or youth activity! Use the enclosed "Did You Know" sheet for teaching points or conversation starters. Youth love competing for the awesome prizes (top prize: HP laptop), but the real prize is the opportunity to help young people thoughtfully consider the risks of underage drinking.



POSTER CONTEST

**DON'T DO DRUGS,
ALCOHOL IS A DRUG**

From the CDC:

Underage drinking is a significant public health problem in the U.S. Excessive drinking is responsible for more than 3,500 deaths and 210,000 years of potential life lost among people under age 21 each year.

From the 2021 *Monitoring the Future* which surveys drug use trends among US teens each year: **Alcohol is the drug most frequently used and abused by teens. 17% of 8th graders, 29% of 10th graders, and 47% of 12th graders report drinking at least once in the last year. 12% of 12th graders report binge drinking, consuming 5 or more drinks in a row.**

Contact ilcaap@sbcglobal.net or 1-866-940-6871 with questions. Additional copies of the Entry Guidelines or "Did you Know" page can be downloaded at ilcaap.org. Entries can be mailed **anytime before April 8, 2022** to: ILCAAAP, Attn: Lynn Allen, 1132 W Jefferson St., Springfield, IL 62702.

Sincerely,

Lynn Allen, Youth Director