

D-Fy

Policies and Procedures



D-Fy Inc.

Created by D-Fy Inc Board of Directors

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Mission Statement

Investing together in the healthy, drug free choices of our youth.

Statement of Purpose

Drug Free Youth (D-Fy) is committed to the reduction of harm created by early use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco in the adolescent population. We do this by changing social norms, influences, and perceptions surrounding the acceptance of these substances as safe and normal for our children. Using a positive approach, we praise, recognize, and reward children in grades 6-12 with incentives that appeal to them, in an effort to reinforce their choices in avoiding harmful outside influences. We are supported by the community at large including businesses, parents, schools, and social service agencies.

D-Fy Overview

History of D-Fy

In 2008 a group of concerned citizens in the city of North Port decided to tackle the issue of substance abuse in their community. They were presented with rising numbers of young people experimenting with prescription drugs and synthetics. Teens perceived that a culture of acceptability existed with regard to alcohol, tobacco, and drug use. It was critically important to change young people's attitudes about drug use as well as the community's acceptability and availability of drugs. As a result, in April of 2010, North Port Drug Free Youth (D-Fy) was initiated.

What is D-Fy?

D-Fy is a voluntary community-based prevention initiative aimed at reducing alcohol, drug, and tobacco use among youth. It is positive reinforcement by praise, recognition, and reward specifically aimed at youth, who by their own volition, do not drink or smoke. D-Fy helps the majority of teens, those who do not abuse substances, to continue making positive choices by recognizing them for their smart choices and offering incentives to reinforce their behavior.

Research shows that youth drug rates are influenced more by young people's attitudes about drugs and by the prevailing social norms, than by availability of drugs. D-Fy has been built as an environmental approach that influences social norms and provides positive support for positive behaviors.

Youth from 6th-12th grade apply for membership by signing a commitment to be drug, alcohol, and tobacco free. They validate their commitment through a drug test and are provided with a photo membership card.

The benefits of membership include a photo membership card that can be used for discounts at local businesses and events, as well as for entrance into "members only" activities. Members are required to retest annually to maintain membership and are subject to random re-test to provide validity to the initiative. Anyone who tests positive for drugs, alcohol, or tobacco is confidentially informed, along with a parent or guardian, of the test results and offered assistance in obtaining counseling through community providers. They are able to re-screen at any time in the future.

Members take pride in their resolution to remain drug, alcohol, and tobacco free, influencing their peers at a far greater rate than the adult population, and the community takes deliberate steps to celebrate this commitment.

Local businesses and organizations provide discounts and other incentives to demonstrate community support for the healthy choices made by D-Fy members.

D-Fy is a community based initiative, managed by volunteer community members in partnership with behavioral health agencies, social service agencies, and community groups.

Research Supporting D-Fy As An Evidence Based Process

Program Model and Evaluation (Robertson Consulting Group)

Incentives

In Europe, there is a growing body of incentive-based programs based on findings that good behavior that is inconvenient, unnoticed, or unrewarded is unlikely to be reinforced simply by rhetoric (Hirst et. al., 2007)*

Random Drug Testing

A large-scale experimental sponsored by the US Department of Education found that mandatory-random drug testing as a condition of participation in extracurricular activities had a positive impact on reported substance abuse use of participating students. In addition, the implementation of the program had no impact on the proportion of students who chose to participate in extracurricular activities (James-Burdumy et al., 2010)

*Hirst et al. (2007) report that incentive programs appear to divert participants from targeted undesirable behavior and impact protective factors around community rewards for pro social involvement. This review found that the following elements were important in achieving positive outcomes: private sectors, sponsors, clear expectations for behavior, and recognition in addition to incentives.

D-Fy Inc. Board of Directors

D-Fy Inc. was created to support the expansion and development of D-Fy Chapters throughout the Gulfcoast and beyond. The D-Fy Inc. Board of Directors is comprised of members of D-Fy Chapters and community members/leaders. The Board of Directors aims to:

- Support collaboration among D-Fy Chapters
- Provide an opportunity to share lessons learned
- Facilitate joint purchases of supplies (testing equipment, id cards, incentives for youth etc.)
- Share resources (application materials, databases, communication tools, etc.)
- Ensure that duplication of protocols and quality standards are maintained across all D-Fy Chapters.

The D-Fy Inc. Board presides over all chapters and should be referred to for any and all policies and procedures. The D-Fy Inc. Board has appointed a D-Fy Executive Director to oversee functioning and questions/concerns of all D-Fy Chapters. It is also the duty of the D-Fy Inc. Board to support the original Mission and Statement of Purpose set forth by the founders of D-Fy in North Port, FL and to enforce the adherence of the following values and principles:

- D-Fy Inc. serves as the governance and policy making body for all D-Fy Chapters, any questions regarding policies and procedures should be addressed to the D-Fy Inc. Board of Directors or the Executive Director.
- D-Fy Inc. is a stand-alone, environmental strategy to reduce harm from substance abuse in the younger population.
- D-Fy Inc. unequivocally appreciates support from coalitions, behavioral health, community organizations and volunteers to work alongside D-Fy Inc. in its efforts. These entities, among other things, can seek to extend money, incentives and in kind services to D-Fy Inc. to help D-Fy achieve their Mission and Statement of Purpose. It is important to note that support is not synonymous with ownership or control, and that the lending of support must still fall into the guidelines provided by the policies and procedures.
- The D-Fy Inc. Board of Directors reserves the right to revoke a chapter's credentials if it is deemed they are not upholding the mission and vision contained herein, and reserves the right to limit the use of the D-Fy logo.
- Use of the D-Fy Logo: We grant you a non-exclusive, royalty free, license to use the D-Fy logo in your Chapter's advertising, literature and websites solely in connection with the marketing of D-Fy and promotional products.
- The D-Fy Inc. Board of Directors reserves the right to refuse or terminate a business partner, agreement if it finds that the business or management does not adhere to and respect the D-Fy Mission and Vision.
- The D-Fy Inc. Board of Directors has created and implemented a Handbook of Best Practice and minimum standards for all chapters to cooperate with, and should be stringently kept.