

January: A Fresh Start

Welcome to January! The New Year started off on a positive note for YLC. Sixteen of our students from Tacoma High Schools including; Mount Tahoma, Wilson, Foss, and Washington attended the annual Prevention Day event in Olympia. Our youth advocates sat down with Representatives and Senators in order to discuss the prevention work being done by youth in our community. The advocates were poised, passionate and represented Safe Streets, YLC, and their individual schools in an excellent manner. The students had a lot of fun exploring the capital, talking to other prevention-minded youth, and some even got to meet Miss Washington Teen!



Outside of the Prevention Day Event, each YLC chapter moved forward with educating their peers on the prevention matters affecting their communities. A wide variety of issues is set to take the stage in 2016. Projects focusing on everything from drug use to gun violence will showcase YLC's drive to take charge and make change.

Stadium High School

The Self-Image project flourished at Stadium this month. The posters, positive message white boards, and the compliment tree went up just in time to encourage students through the rough waters of finals. The messages are not static and will be updated as time allows between their other projects.

Stadium's YLC is at a crossroads. As they were initially conceived several of their previous ideas, including the "What Would You Do" project and the "Grim Reaper" event utilized videotape as a main educational component. However, this has proved to be a serious obstacle. Determined to move forward Stadium's CYL plans to meet in February to rethink these projects and find a way to build on these ideas without the issues that come with figuring out filming non-YLC members on school grounds.

Foss High School

Foss only met twice in January due to the Martin Luther King Jr Holiday and a wavier day. Despite the short month students were able to plan out a portion of their stress prevention project. Aiming to show students positive ways of dealing with stress they want to implement a “Stress Free” week where lunchtime serves as a vehicle for school-wide information sessions on different ways of handling stress. The main goal is to encourage students to avoid negative stress relievers such as drugs and self-harm in favor of pursuing positive alternatives.

In addition to their prevention project Foss is excited to pursue a unique service project that will allow them to promote YLC and work with the Special Olympics! The Polar Plunge is an exciting opportunity brought to YLC by Teacher-Coach Aimee Kennedy. With both a prevention and service project in the works the next few months will be busy at Foss!

Wilson High School

Wilson YLC kicked off the year by filming new video for their distracted driving PSA. Focusing on revamping their original work, students have mapped out a filming and editing schedule that should produce a high quality video by the middle of February. Sticking with their decision to focus on quality over quantity is a key example of the reflection involved in leadership. Re-tooling the video may have taken some time away from completing additional prevention projects, but it will help solidify this YLC chapter as a group focused on truly crafting prevention work that will last long after they advance up the educational and leadership ladder.

Lincoln High School

The Memory and Information Wall was Lincoln’s main focus this month. YLC students decided to kick off the conversation around the problems that lead to community violence by tackling drug abuse. YLC members researched local drug crime rates, drug related deaths and violence in order to craft a wall that showcases the many far-reaching consequences of drug use. The wall will go up the first week of February and will feature info graphics, pictures, and stories that will encourage students to think twice about using drugs or combining drugs and violence.

The students continue to search for a way to transform this wall into an interactive experience. Transforming this conversation from a passive display of pictures and stories to a respectful but meaningful conversation that weighs heavy on their mind and is something they are actively working to tackle.



YLC

January 2016 Happenings



Mount Tahoma High School

The February #ImpactUrDrive event is almost here! Mount Tahoma's YLC used January to fine tune all the details for the event. Last minute posters, facts and recruiting ensured that all chapter members participated in creating this massive event and understand their role in the day-of activities.

To prepare for the February 5th all day event YLC members created numerous posters featuring real life stories concerning distracted driving as well as statistics highlighting the stark realities of how looking away from the road for just a second can impact not only a single life but a whole community. These posters were a great way for the youth to showcase their creativity, including everything from "chalk" outlines to "police caution tape".

In the lead up to their prevention project these posters will get students at Mount Tahoma thinking about their driving habits, a point that will be driven home by seeing the visual impact of distracted driving statistics when the YLC and Random Acts of Kindness students dressed up as accident victims during the all day prevention event.

In addition to the individual behind the scenes work to prepare for the event, students created a day-of outline with distracted driving facts to be distributed to all teachers and school administrators. Taking the information a step further, one of the YLC members presented the project idea at a Mount Tahoma teacher's meeting to ensure that everyone is aware of the event and ready for a few slight disruptions to the normal schedule. We cannot wait to report back on this awesome event next month!

PHOTOS:



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Next CYL Meeting: February 19th

The February Core Youth Leader Meeting is fast approaching! **Topic?** Visioning and Life Mapping **Where?** Safe Streets. Address: 622 Tacoma Ave. S. Tacoma WA. 98402. **Time?** 3:30pm-5:30pm