



Students Working Against Tobacco, A Youth Coalition



A coalition is a group of people working together for a common purpose or goal. **The purpose of the SWAT youth tobacco coalition** is to promote tobacco free lives; to inform other youth about the risks of tobacco addiction; to help create or change local and state tobacco-related policies to reduce tobacco use and secondhand smoke.

What do SWAT members do?

- ◆ Register and attend regular meetings which are usually held once a month or as announced.
- ◆ Participate in community events or coalition projects. This could involve manning an information booth, environmental cleanups, conducting surveys, participating in educational presentations, conducting tobacco retailer checks or attending city or county meetings.
- ◆ Sign a tobacco-free contract. This means that you will remain tobacco-free while serving on this coalition, or if you are a current tobacco user, you will commit to quit using within 3-6 months.
- ◆ Learn about tobacco and its health effects, how tobacco companies target and recruit youth, how to make change in your community, advertisement aimed at youth and tobacco laws and enforcement issues.

Rewards:

- ◆ Receive a SWAT button after turning in the registration form and a t-shirt after participating in at least 10 hours of SWAT activities within the 1st year. Another t-shirt will be awarded after 2 years of SWAT participation.
- ◆ Gift cards or other rewards for active participation and involvement in SWAT activities.
- ◆ Receive a certificate showing community service hours for SWAT and by request receive a letter of recommendation for your portfolio, college, and/or scholarships.
- ◆ Being a positive presence on campus, helping others enjoy a healthier tobacco-free lifestyle, and belonging to an influential club on campus.
- ◆ Being a member of the tobacco youth coalition shows that you are community minded, care about health and youth issues, and are willing to work for change.

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