

FLORIDA



Promoting Florida's Youth Helping Florida's Youth

Happy 25th Anniversary SADD

A community event was held on November 2, 2006 at 4:00PM on the historic front steps of the capital in Tallahassee, Florida. The public was invited to join students, parents, local officials, and community leaders for a celebration of SADD's accomplishments and a look to the future.



In keeping with the "Lighting the Way" theme, FLORIDA SADD held a SADD Day Press Conference and special Lantern Lighting ceremony. Students from Leon High School and Godby High School in Leon County made colorful lanterns leading up to the event that were "lit" during the ceremony. The lanterns were a physical symbol of hope and remembrance and, because each is handmade and colorful, representative of the diversity of the community as well. In addition to celebrating SADD's record of achievement, the event

brought together local leaders to focus on issues of specific concern to the community, such as underage drinking. Lt. Governor Toni Jennings, Florida Director of the Office of Drug Control Bill Janes and Program Coordinator Rachel Oliver of the Tallahassee Pledge Underage Drinking coalition among others spoke at the press event. To mark this important occasion, Governor Jeb Bush, Mayor John Marks, and Leon County Chairman Bill Proctor wrote proclamations declaring November 2, 2006 as "SADD Day".

Mandy Lancaster, FLORIDA SADD Region 1 Student Advisory Board representative opened the event, welcoming all the special guests and community members. She also introduced each guest speaker and accepted the proclamations on behalf of FLORIDA SADD.

FLORIDA SADD wanted to celebrate this important milestone with the community. We wanted everyone to know about the hard work we're doing to keep youth safe here in our state. Many young Florida drivers die each year in the leading cause of death for young people, motor vehicle crashes. Florida SADD, under the office

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Mandy Lancaster & Veri Todd at the state capitol.

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Coordinator

of Florida Peer Education located at Tallahassee Community College, has received funds from the Florida Department of Transportation for the past 24 years to help save young lives in our state. We appreciate their support because without it, we would not be able to give our over 370 SADD chapters the necessary tools to help educate their peers and community about driving responsibly and making positive, healthy choices.

SADD chapters across the state put together their own celebration as well. The SADD chapter at Santa Fe High School in High Springs, Florida started the festivities with a candle lighting ceremony, presented by the officers, renewing of the chapter's promise to promote good decision-making and helping those affected by bad decisions. Afterwards, the chapter had a huge birthday bash, including cakes of all kinds, cookies, nachos, chips, sodas and other types of food. Other members donated lanterns, which they will reuse in the Relay for Life event. After this, they played relay type games in celebration of the day. Members were wearing their official club shirts, which have on them established '81. They also put up in the school's main display a bulletin saying happy birthday to SADD. Due to the activities around campus, everyone was aware of SADD's birthday and the significance of the day.



Mandy Lancaster accepting proclamation from Lt. Governor Toni Jennings.

The Lee County School District's Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Lee County School SADD chapters performed a ceremony that was held from 7 pm to 8 pm in the Fort Myers High Cafeteria. A Proclamation was read declaring November 2 as SADD Day. Representatives from the school district, the community, and students spoke at this event. There was also a special ceremony entitled "SADD Turns 25: Lighting the way". Emily Smith, that regions Student Advisory Board representative was also present and spoke at the event as well.

University High School in Orlando, Florida put together a SADD Day event as well. They started the evening showing the DVD of *SADD: Then and Now*, taking place in downtown Orlando Eola Park

Amphi-theater. Carol Burkett, a representative for Orange County Drug Reduction Coalition presented the proclamation of SADD Day November 2 from Mayor Richard Crotty to Mr. David Christiansen, principal of University High School and Mrs. Sherry Viersen SADD advisor. The evening was a tribute to the peer leadership by the 25 years of students helping other students and warning them of the dangers of drinking and driving. A moment of silence was given to all who have lost their lives from a bad decision. Another moment of silence and a memory DVD was shown to remember a student who died on their campus this year, Michael Nieves. The event ended with them playing the song, "When you walk through a storm."



(left) Santa Fe High School in High Springs, started off their celebration with a candle lighting ceremony, presented by the officers.

(below) University High School in Orlando, celebrated downtown in Orlando Eola Park Amphi-theater.



FACTS ABOUT IMPAIRED DRIVING

During 2005, 16,885 people in the U.S. died in alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes, representing 39% of all traffic-related deaths (NHTSA 2006).

Alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes kill someone every 31 minutes, and non-fatal injure someone every two minutes (NHTSA 2006).

In 2005, nearly 1.4 million drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics (Department of Justice 2005). That's less than one percent of the 159 million self-reported episodes of alcohol-impaired driving among U.S. adults each year (Quinlan et al. 2005).

In 2005, 48 children age 14 years and younger who were killed as pedestrians or pedal cyclists were struck by impaired drivers (NHTSA 2006).

Drugs other than alcohol (e.g., marijuana and cocaine) are involved in about 18% of motor vehicle driver deaths. These other drugs are generally used in combination with alcohol (Jones et al. 2003).

More than half of the 414 child passengers ages 14 and younger who died in alcohol-related crashes during 2005 were riding with the drinking driver (NHTSA 2006).

Each year, alcohol-related crashes in the United States cost about \$51 billion (Blincoe et al. 2002).

Statistics show more teens are injured or killed in motor vehicle crashes during the months of March, April, and May than any other time of year. If you remain alcohol & drug free, buckle up, and drive responsibly, you may avoid being a statistic. Please encourage students to stay safe this Spring!

Buckle Up Florida!



Many of our young people die in Florida in the number one cause of deaths for youth; motor vehicle crashes. More than half of those deaths could have been prevented if they only wore their safety belt. Besides, in Florida, it is unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle in this state unless each passenger and the operator of the vehicle are restrained by a safety belt. Any person who violates this law commits a non-moving violation. Law enforcement officials have seen first hand the severe injury and death that comes from low seat belt use.

Too Many Ignore the Facts

- According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 31,415 passenger vehicle occupants died in traffic crashes during 2005 - and 55 percent of those killed were NOT wearing their seat belts at the time of the crash.
- Nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of the passenger vehicle occupants killed during the night were unbelted - compared to 47 percent during the day.

- Also of great concern: belt use is much lower in the rear seat than the front. A detailed survey in 2005 showed that only 68 percent of rear seat passengers were belted, compared to 82 percent in the front seat.
- Men - especially younger men - are much less likely to buckle up. In 2005, 67 percent of male drivers and 74 percent of male passengers between the ages of 18 and 34 who were killed in crashes were NOT wearing their seat belts.
- According to NHTSA, pickup truck drivers and passengers consistently have the lowest seat belt usage rates of all motorists.
- In 2005, the observed seat belt use rate in pickup trucks was only 73 percent compared to 83 percent in passenger cars and 85 percent in vans and SUVs.
- In 2005, 6,038 pickup truck occupants were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes nationwide. Of those, 4,164 (69 percent) were unrestrained.

Whether you are the passenger in the front or back seat of a vehicle you should always wear a safety belt. It doesn't matter whether you drive a truck, van, or SUV you should always wear a safety belt. Please do not put your life at risk by not wearing a safety belt. Make sure every passenger in your vehicle is wearing a safety belt before you leave to go anywhere. Visit Buckle Up Florida at <http://www.buckleupflorida.com> for information to help save lives.

CAMP SADD Student Leadership Summit

During the weekend of September 16-17, 2006, over 97 students and advisors from all across our state participated in the CAMP SADD Student Leadership Summit in Parrish, Florida at the DaySprings Conference Center.

The event was kicked off by a welcome from Verl Todd, FLORIDA SADD State Coordinator. The masters of ceremony for the weekend, National Student of the Year Daniel Vocelle introduced the Student Advisory Board (SAB). Daniel, Mr. Todd, and the SAB members performed a short skit, explaining the expectations for the weekend. Jeff Yalden, MTV MADE coach, was our guest speaker and had students participate in several team building activities while pumping them up for the weekend. Students and advisors participated in many activities throughout the weekend that included a session on diversity, programming, leadership skills, and more team building exercises. They were able to compete in a fun SADD Jeopardy game, learning about alcohol awareness and traffic safety issues. Students also competed during the Freedom Olympics team building session that included a Quick Click challenge. Advisors and students participated in several round table discussions where they talked about important issues that SADD chapters face and how they would handle these situations. Participants made lanterns for the lantern ceremony, made hand prints on a banner, pledging to keep lighting the way for the future, and took part in a driving simulator, provided by the Pennsylvania SADD organization.

The event ended with a picture slide show put together by our very own Student Advisory Board members and a special lantern lighting ceremony on behalf of SADD's 25th Anniversary. Overall both students and advisors said they really enjoyed the weekend and felt it was well worth their time. Are you disappointed you didn't attend this past year's event? Don't worry. We are already planning next years Student Leadership Summit. The 2007 FLORIDA SADD Student Leadership Summit will take place September 15-16, 2007 at Tallahassee Community College in Tallahassee, FL. Make plans NOW to attend this great event. For more information and registration forms, please visit our website www.floridasadd.org on the main page. We look forward to seeing you!

SAB member Katie Baird and summit attendees.



2006 FLORIDA SADD Student Leadership Summit participants.

TOP 10 Reasons to Attend the SADD National Conference

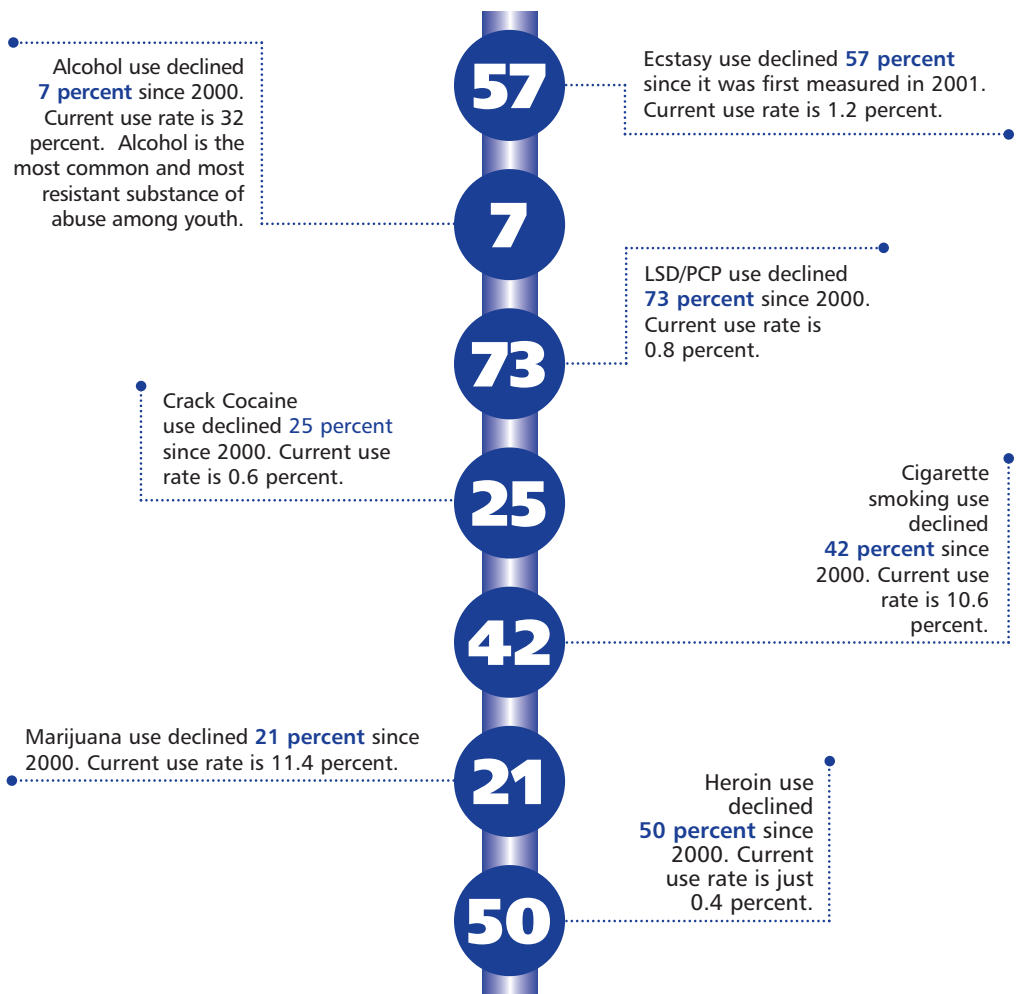
- 10** You get to learn many leadership skills you can bring back to help support your SADD chapter.
- 9** You get to meet the SADD National staff.
- 8** You will have the chance to hear great motivational speakers who will inspire you to go back home and do great things.
- 7** You will have the chance to help Florida SADD win the spirit stick by cheering on our state and being supportive to everyone.
- 6** You get to meet the SADD National Student Leadership Council.
- 5** You will have the chance to visit a beautiful city known for its beauty and culture.
- 4** You will make tons of new friends from all across the country who are in SADD just like you.
- 3** You get to wear nice clothes for the banquet and then boogie the night away during the dance.
- 2** You get to share in the ultimate SADD experience you won't find anywhere else.
- 1** You get to meet the Florida SADD State Coordinator!

Join us in the Bayou! Make plans and start fundraising NOW to attend the 2007 SADD National Conference **July 8-11, 2007** at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana. Check the SADD National website and FLORIDA SADD website for conference information.

Governor Bush Announces Results of the 2006 Florida Substance Abuse Survey

On Tuesday, November 28th, Governor Jeb Bush announced the results of the 2006 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey. The annual survey was conducted among 6th through 12th graders throughout the state for the seventh consecutive year. While small increases occurred in drug and alcohol use, 12 of the 21 categories measured current use below two percent.

Since 2000, Florida has seen declines in the use of heroin, ecstasy and LSD, as well as in the use of cigarettes and alcohol. Findings from this year's survey include:



“The 2000-2006 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Surveys reflect the intense emphasis on youth substance abuse prevention during this Administration,” said Office of Drug Control Director Bill Janes. “Over the past few years, there has been a significant reduction in drug abuse among our middle and high school students.”

To view the complete results of the 2006 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey, please visit <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/mentalhealth/publications/fysas/>.

Alcohol Prevention in Middle School

Whatever your role in the school — teacher, principal, coach, nurse, or guidance counselor — you can play an important role in preventing underage drinking. In the school setting, children draw conclusions about alcohol use from what they see and hear about alcohol from their friends, classmates, and teachers. When schools establish alcohol policies that clearly state expectations and penalties regarding alcohol use by students, they help reinforce the fact that underage drinking is not an acceptable form of behavior.

In the school take these steps:

STEP Assess student drinking to determine the extent of the problem.

STEP Find out what factors may be contributing to student drinking in your school or community (e.g., easy access to alcohol, peer pressure, adults' failure to address the issue).

STEP Educate parents about underage alcohol use.

STEP Determine what steps, if any, are being taken within your school system to help young people resist the pressure to drink.

STEP Develop an active partnership with the families of your students.

STEP Implement school policies prohibiting alcohol use on school grounds.

You can visit Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free at <http://www.alcoholfreechildren.org> to learn more about how you can become involved in preventing underage drinking.

Students Link Up Against Drugs

SADD students at P.L. Dunbar Middle School in Ft. Myers, FL celebrated Red Ribbon Week (October 23-31) by putting together many activities throughout the week. Oct. 24-26 they did their Link Up Against Alcohol and Drugs activity where paper links/red ribbons were sold in the cafeteria. Other activities included a Pledge Day where students signed a pledge in the cafeteria, "Sock It To Drugs" where Students wore colorful, funny or odd matching socks, "Turn Your Back on Drugs" where students wore shirts backwards, "Wear Red Day" where red clothing is worn, "Sports Day" where sports clothing is worn, and "Say 'Boo to Drugs Day" where students wore Halloween t-shirts or black and orange clothing. Other events throughout the week included a DUI demonstration.

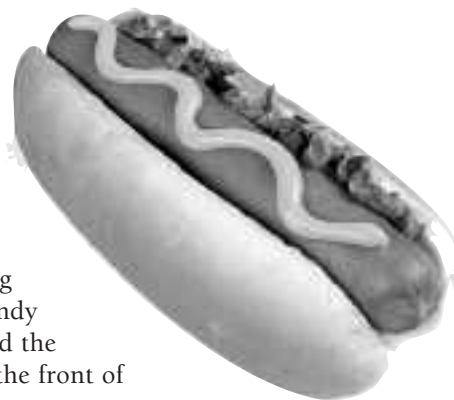


Officer Sanchez set up an obstacle course to have students use with the impaired driver goggles.

Students at Dunbar Middle School in Ft. Myers "Link Up" by selling paper links & ribbons in the cafeteria.

South Lake High School Busy Spreading the SADD Message

For Homecoming at South Lake High School in Groveland, FL, they had a DUI goggle booth and a booth selling hot dogs for a fund raiser. They were also in the Homecoming parade, wearing their SADD T-shirts, tossing candy and passing out brochures to parents. They had the banner FLORIDA SADD sent them attached to the front of a ranger so all could see who they were.



The next week they gave out nearly 500 Red Ribbons and had the three lunch periods compete against each other to see who could have the most students sign a Drug Free Promise banner.

The next week they celebrated SADD's birthday. Although they couldn't do the lantern ceremony, they had a party for their members, complete with a bakery cake and awards for joining SADD and working at the above projects (bracelets and pins). The next day the cafeteria had cake for all students and they had over 300 young people sign the Contract for Life while giving out pencils and key chains.

Students Pledge Against Violence

On October 24, 2006 the students of **Lee Middle School in Ft. Myers, FL** teamed up against gun violence and substance abuse. This was a time for ALL students to pause and to think about the problem of substance abuse and its negative impact on our schools, our communities, and our nation; not only during Red Ribbon Week but throughout the year.

All students pledged against gun violence with the Ft. Myers Chief of Police, Hilton Daniels, Miss Boni Raitt, Reading Teacher and SADD. Advisor, Mrs. Vivian Smith, Principal and Dr. Constance Jones, Academic Services Officer of the Lee County School Board.

The [Student Pledge Against Gun Violence](#) is a national program that honors the role that young people, through their own decisions, can play in reducing gun violence. This is a campaign against youth gun violence which culminates each year

on a Day of National Concern about Young People and Gun Violence.

The pledge read as follows: (Students read the pledge with the above listed)

I will never bring a gun to school;

I will never use a gun to settle a personal problem or dispute;

I will use my influence with my friends to keep them from using guns to settle disputes.

My individual choices and actions, when multiplied by those of young people throughout the country, will make a difference.

Together, by honoring this pledge we can reverse the violence and grow up in safety.

There were over 600 pledges collected by the student body at Lee Middle School against gun violence.



Lee Middle School SADD chapter raising awareness.

Apalachicola High School Ghost Out Week Reaches Students

Apalachicola High School SADD's Ghost Out Week was quite well attended and active in the High School and middle school. They made 75 lanterns, 40 GHOST SADD t-shirts, had state troopers informing students about the statistics of their county and followed the ghost out program through the week including the readings in Middle school. They had the help of Franklin Promise and invited one of the National SADD founders to talk to parents on October 23, 2006. Their SADD chapter along with the community met at the Franklin County Courthouse front steps for the November 2, SADD Day event as well.

New Study Finds That Most High School Drinkers Binge

A new study finds that high school students who drink tend to drink heavily, and that young drinkers are more likely to be involved in other destructive decisions as well. The study by researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that 45 percent of high school students say they drink, and of these, 64 percent said that they are binge drinking, consuming five or more alcoholic drinks at a sitting. Young drinkers also were more likely to engage in sexual behavior, smoke, and get involved in fights.

Binge drinkers were especially at risk of these behaviors. "Our study clearly shows that it's not just that students drink alcohol, but how much they drink that most strongly affects whether they experience other health and social problems," said researcher Jacqueline Miller, M.D.

The study appears in the January 2007 issue of the journal *Pediatrics*.



A Message from Your State Coordinator

Most of you may not realize that I was once a SADD member myself. Of course back then we were still called Students Against Driving Drunk. As a proud member of the class of 1990 (Go West Hopkins!), I struggled with many of the same issues that young people are faced with today. However, thanks to SADD and all the different activities we did, I can truly say that my circle of friends saved my life. I remember my senior year we did an alternative after prom party at school. Although a few of my friends came, there were others who chose to go to drinking parties. I have to admit I was torn between going out drinking or staying at school. I wanted to fit in and be popular just the same as most of you do now. I'm sure if you ask your teachers or parents, they would tell you that they struggled with peer pressure too.

I didn't go out drinking that night and instead chose to stay at school. I was proud of my decision and can honestly say that is why I'm alive today. My friends who chose to drink were lucky that nothing happened to them that night. But throughout my high school career other friends weren't so lucky. I had to deal with losing a friend just as some of you who may have lost a friend due to an alcohol-related car crash. Underage drinking and drinking and driv-

ing have always been a problem and I'm afraid they will always continue to be a problem unless we stand up and do something about it. As a SADD member you can do something to make a difference.

Students who drink at parties only want to share the experience of being with friends. There is nothing wrong with going to a party or even hosting a party yourself. If you want to hang out with friends, that's great! I'm sure your teachers and parents would support that. But believe it or not, you CAN have a great time without alcohol or other illegal substances.

Young people want the trust and respect from their parents. Why not consider signing the Contract for Life with them. You may think it's only just a piece of paper. But just think how much more your parents would respect and trust you if you approached them first about the issues of alcohol and drugs. Most parents are scared to have these conversations. Why not talk to them first and show them you are a responsible person. They may be so surprised that they may give you more freedom and allow you to do things they normally wouldn't have. Just remember now that you have gained their trust and respect, you can easily lose it if they find out you aren't making good choices.



Ver1 Todd, Florida SADD Coordinator

Besides, there are many benefits to making smart choices. You have a better future where college and a career are in sight.

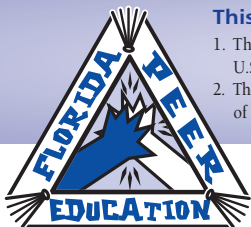
You have real friends who care and respect you for being yourself. If you follow down the wrong path, however, your future may not be so bright. You could end up in detention school or in jail. You might not graduate from high school and end up working at a job you don't really enjoy. You may not have many friends. Choosing the right path is important and being a part of SADD is the first step. Be a friend and support each other. Put together alternative activities at school during spring break, prom, and graduation season encouraging everyone to stay alcohol and drug free. Thank you for everything you do. You are truly making a difference.

Sincerely,

Ver1 Todd

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1. This report was prepared for the State Safety Office, Dept. of Transportation, State of FL, in cooperation with the Nat'l Highway Traffic Safety Admin., U.S. Dept. of Transportation and/or Federal Highway Admin., U.S. Dept. of Transportation.
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"Education's
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