

Santa Clarita Students Connect Through DFYIT

Honor Roll

A program designed to support and recognize drug-free students has really taken off in the Santa Clarita Valley. The Santa Clarita Drug Free Youth in Town (DFYIT) program – launched in August 2012 by the City of Santa Clarita, William S. Hart Union High School District and the L.A. County Sheriff's Department – has nearly 800 members to date, but has reached many more.

"Through lunchtime activities, school-morning announcements, the creation and showing of a video on school TV and special events, the DFYIT message encouraging drug-free healthy lifestyles has reached thousands," says Janine Prado, City of Santa Clarita Human Services Administrator.

Schools have held DFYIT events, including a year-end celebration in May and a June pool party, monthly club meetings, awareness activities, workshops and conferences. Club members attend the DFYIT Youth Summit, leadership training and participate in social events, including community service projects. Students must also agree to random drug testing throughout the year.

"DFYIT is a club on my campus where I have found peers with similar interests and who encourage others to be drug- and alcohol-free" says Lexi-Lu Lu Furdek, president of the West Ranch High School DFYIT club. Teen leaders organize all club activities with the help of school personnel and city staff, and membership is free to students.

Parent participation is encouraged. Parents of DFYIT members meet regularly, and receive drug-prevention training and the results of their child's drug tests. For more information, visit www.DFYITscv.com.

– Kimberly Horg

PHOTO COURTESY SANTA CLARITA DFYIT



Teens can connect with other teens willing to commit to drug-free fun through the Drug Free Youth in Town program.