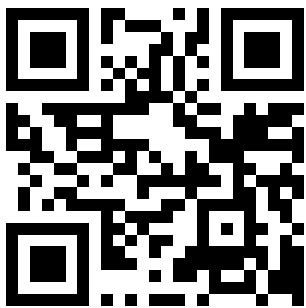


Contact:

4-H Youth Development
212 Scovell Hall
Lexington, KY 40546-0064
859-257-5961

<http://4-h.ca.uky.edu/>

**When you
support
Extension,
4-H members
become effective
citizens in their
counties.**



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE *Changing Lives*



The fun after-prom activities kept seniors engaged throughout the night in a drug and alcohol free environment.

Monroe County 4-H Teen Leaders Created a Safe Environment for Prom

Youth collaborated with community partners to provide a safe drug and alcohol free all-night event attended by 70% of the senior class.

Thirty-six percent of participants would have used alcohol and 12% would have used drugs if they had not attended the 4-H Project Prom event according to the participants' evaluations.

Thirty-five percent of Kentucky youth drink alcohol daily and 37% have used marijuana according to the U. S. Health and Human Services Office of Adolescent Health (2013). High school proms are often a celebration where the temptation to experiment with drugs and alcohol is great. The Monroe County 4-H Teen Leadership club developed Project Prom to offer a safe alternative for high school seniors.

4-H Club members coordinated with civic organizations, faith leaders, the Monroe County Board of Education, local law enforcement and parents in planning the event. They wrote grants and solicited resources to conduct the program. Each 4-H teen club member took responsibility for one or more details in organizing and implementing the event. They communicated with adults and other teens about the dangers of alcohol and drug use and marketed the event. Sponsoring organizations provided motivational speakers, games, activities, and prizes throughout the night. The activities vary from year to year.

Seventy percent of the senior class attended Project Prom. The all-night activities were fun and creative. Of those completing the Project Prom evaluation, 36% reported that they would have used alcohol and 12% reported they would have used drugs that night if they had not attended.

The Monroe County Sheriff commented that the prom project "... gives me and my officers an opportunity to begin building a positive relationship with our young adults." Parents have shared that in addition to



4-H members applied for grants and coordinated with civic groups and government officials as they planned Project Prom.



Local law enforcement officials look forward to Project Prom as an opportunity to build positive relationships with young adults.

knowing their teenagers are safe, "... they realize they can have fun without drugs and alcohol." Due to the success of Project Prom, the Monroe County 4-H Teen Leadership club will continue the tradition of promoting safe and healthy lifestyle choices.