



BONITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT “EVERY 15 MINUTES” PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

Every 15 Minutes is a two-day program focusing on high school students, which challenges them to think about drinking, driving, personal safety, and the responsibility of making mature decisions and the impact their decisions have on family, friends, and many others. This prevention and education program’s name was derived from the fact that in the early 1990’s, every fifteen minutes someone in the United States died in an alcohol-related traffic collision. This year San Dimas High School and Chaparral High School are working together to combine the two schools for this event scheduled sometime in April.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The two-day program called *Every 15 Minutes* brings together a broad coalition of interested local agencies with the goal of reducing alcohol-related traffic fatalities among youth. The partnering of law enforcement, local hospitals, emergency medical responders, schools, businesses, and service clubs validates the importance of working together to ensure a healthy community. Prior to the actual event, several students representing a cross section of the two schools are selected. Waivers are reviewed and signed by students and their parents.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Day One: One student who has been part of the training is removed from class at certain intervals and becomes one of the “living dead.” “The Grim Reaper” enters the classroom and reads each student’s obituary to those remaining in class. The obituary is posted in the classroom for the remainder of the school day. Simultaneously, the parents of each “living dead” student are given their child’s “death notification” by a uniformed officer in their home.

Chaparral High School students will be transported by bus to San Dimas High School where a simulated drunk driving collision involving pre-selected students is staged on school grounds. It begins with a pre-recorded 911 call that triggers an emergency response by law enforcement, firefighters, paramedics, and the coroner.

Paramedics treat “injured” students. A “critically injured” student might be trapped inside a vehicle and may be rescued by firefighters using the Jaws of Life. One student is declared “dead” and removed by the coroner. Another student, designated as the drunk driver, is given a field sobriety test and is arrested for driving under the influence.

After the collision, the drama continues for the students involved in the crash. Officers book the drunk driver into jail. After booking is completed, the drunk driver must call a parent or guardian to explain what he or she has done. Emergency medical responders transport the critically injured patient to a local hospital where doctors simulate attempts to save his or her life. Unable to do so, the doctor on duty has the grave task of notifying the student’s parents of their child’s “untimely death”. Chaparral students are then bussed back to our site and they will be dismissed at the usual time of 1:30.

At the end of the day, law enforcement and school chaperones take the living dead to an overnight retreat. Once the students become members of the living dead, there is no contact with family or friends. At the retreat, the students participate in team building activities and learn

first hand from people who have been involved in or affected by a drunk driving collision. The evening ends as the students write letters to their loved ones, expressing the thoughts they would convey if they had not been killed on that particular day.

Day Two (the following day):

Tombstones of the living dead are displayed in front of the school in a temporary cemetery so friends and classmates can mourn their loss. Students take a bus to San Dimas High School for an assembly/"memorial service". The living dead students are seated in the front, with parents and members of the community who were involved in planning the event looking on.

During the assembly, everyone watches a video of the previous day's events. After the video, several of the living dead students read excerpts from the letters they wrote the night before. They share with their friends and classmates what it was like to "die" without having the chance to say good-bye.

Other members from the community, like trauma doctors, law enforcement officers, and emergency responders, explain how they are personally affected on a daily basis when someone makes a poor choice involving alcohol or texting while driving.

The assembly concludes with a call to action challenging everyone to make responsible choices when alcohol is involved. After 24 hours on an "emotional roller coaster," parents and living dead students are reunited. Parents and teens are typically overwhelmed with emotion and gain a new sense of love and commitment to one another to make the right choice.

After the assembly, everyone involved in the program gathers at a reception hosted by and for the participants. The program helps the students see members of their community in a different light. They are no longer just cops, doctors, paramedics, or firefighters, but also friends, mentors, and human beings who care about the kids in their community.

RESULTS AND IMPACT

The two-day Every 15 Minutes Program is very dramatic and emotional, and purposely so. Teenagers are constantly reminded about the dangers of drinking and driving as well as cell phone use/texting and driving. They know the intellectual statistics. However, many teens share the belief it will never happen to them.

This powerful program is designed to create awareness among students that they are not invincible. This program helps open the emotional doors, and it addresses a problem most teens do not know exists. They experience first hand how their actions affect the lives of so many other people.

PERMISSION SLIPS:

Attached is a permission slip for your child to participate as part of the audience that is transported by bus to San Dimas High School each day. Because the dates of the *Every 15 Minutes* program are not revealed to the general school population ahead of time, the exact dates in April are not specified. **Please complete and sign the attached permission slip and return with your enrollment packet.**

**BONITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE IN SCHOOL ACTIVITY**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

_____ has my permission to participate in the following voluntary school activity:

“Every 15 Minutes” Program

Spring

School Activity

Date(s)

In case of emergency, I give permission for any necessary treatment/medication to be administered to my child by the attending physicians/nurses/hospital/paramedics.

California Education Code Section 35330 states, in pertinent part, as follows:

“All persons making the field trip or excursion shall be deemed to have waived all claims against the district or the State of California for injury, accident, illness, or death occurring during or by reason of the field trip or excursion.”

I have read and understand Education Code Section 35330 as quoted above. I further understand that I hold harmless the Bonita Unified School District, its officers, agents, and employees, from any and all liability or claims that may arise out of or in connection with my child’s participation in this activity.

I fully understand that participants are to abide by all rules and regulations governing conduct during the school activity. Any violation of these rules and regulations may result in that individual being disciplined and/or sent home at his/her and/or parents’/guardians’ expense.

Signature of Parent/Guardian	Date	Address	Phone #
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Signature of Student	Date of Birth
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Family Medical Insurance Carrier	Policy Group No.	Phone #
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A special note to Parents/Guardians: For safety purposes, the school needs to be aware of any medical situation which may affect your child while participating in this school activity.

_____ Check here if there are no special medical problems of which the staff should be aware and no medications are required during the school activity.

_____ Check here if there are special medical problems of which the staff should be aware and/or medications that are required during the school activity. If medications are required, you must sign and attach the “Authorization for Medication” form obtained from the School Health Office and describe the medical problem:

NO STUDENT WILL BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SCHOOL ACTIVITY WITHOUT THIS FORM ON FILE.