

# VIRGINIA OPERATION PROM/ GRADUATION

*In accordance with the position of the U.S. and Virginia Departments of Education that illicit drug and alcohol use is wrong and harmful, Virginia Operation Prom/Graduation (OP/G) advocates a “no use” policy for youth. Virginia OP/G does not accept donations from any alcohol or tobacco manufacturers or distributors to facilitate or promote the state program.*

## WHAT IS OP/G?

Virginia Operation Prom/Graduation is a project of the Virginia Department of Education in cooperation with the Virginia State Police Association.

In response to a 1987 request from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, the Virginia Department of Education developed the Virginia Operation Prom/Graduation (OP/G) project. The purpose of OP/G is to address the serious issues of youth drinking, drug use, and driving behavior during the high-risk social events of prom and graduation. One needless death or injury from any alcohol or other drug-related crash on high-risk social occasions is considered to be one too many.

OP/G encourages a positive approach to negative stereotype perceptions of teen “rites of passage” traditions. By offering planning guides, parent workshops, consultations, and presentations we give local community groups the resources to plan and implement all-night alcohol/drug-free teen celebrations. The goal is to assure that Virginia’s teens have a positive alternative on prom and graduation nights — the two highest risk nights during their high school years.

Because of OP/G, most celebrations across the state are offering all students, regardless of their location, race, religion, sex, ethnic, socio economic, academic or athletic status, the same basic celebration with the same basic guidelines.

## WHAT DOES OP/G DO?

- Provides copies of “Celebrate Life! A Guide for Planning All Night Alcohol/Drug Free Celebrations for Teens.” Copies are free to all Virginia residents. There is a \$5.00 charge for out-of-state requests.
- Provides statewide workshops to build enthusiasm, excitement, and confidence among those who will plan their school’s celebrations. Two copies of the workshop notification information are sent to every public and private Virginia high school addressed to (1) All Night Celebration Committee and (2) PTA/PTO President. Fees to attend are nominal. Topics may include guidelines, activities, security, insurance, publicity, parent volunteers,

fundraising ideas, and decorations with as much hands-on as possible. Reservations must be made in advance.

- Provides presentations and consultations for Virginia high schools who request them.
- Provides presentations at state and national conferences. These have included the U.S. Department of Education, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Association of School Boards, Virginia Governor’s Alcohol and Other Drug Conference, Greater Washington Council of Governments, Texas State School Board Association, Eastern Kentucky Alcohol/Drug-Free Celebration Seminar, Maryland Prevention Council, and the Baltimore Private School Council.
- On request produces all-night celebration simulations for state conferences. Any school is welcome to send representatives to observe or obtain hands-on experience.
- Visits prom and graduation celebrations to photographically record and find new ideas that can be shared via workshops and the planning guide. Please email, ([acundiff@mail.vak12ed.edu](mailto:acundiff@mail.vak12ed.edu)) your celebration date and place if you want us to visit your celebration.
- Administers the Honor Roll program for the Virginia State Police Association. See Chapter on Honor Roll.

## THE VIRGINIA OPERATION PROM/ GRADUATION PROJECT TEAM

Arlene Cundiff, Coordinator  
Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program  
Office of Student Services  
Virginia Department of Education  
P. O. Box 2120  
Richmond, Virginia 23218-2120  
804/225-2871  
email: [acundiff@mail.vak12ed.edu](mailto:acundiff@mail.vak12ed.edu)

Northern Virginia Project Graduation (NVPG)  
P. O. Box 10344  
McLean, VA 22102  
Web site: [www.nvpg.org](http://www.nvpg.org)



**Arlene Cundiff**, Coordinator Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program, Office of Compensatory Programs, at the Virginia Department of Education has overseen this program from the time of its inception. Under her guidance the program has grown and followed all guidelines established by the Virginia Department of Education and the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act as established by the U.S. Department of Education. She also oversees the Safe and Drug-Free Schools program for the Virginia Department of Education and has served as the director of the Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project (YADAPP) for a number of years.

**Northern Virginia Project Graduation (NVPG)** began in 1987 and has expanded to include more than 44 public and private high schools in the Northern Virginia counties of Fairfax, Prince William, and Loudoun. NVPG Board members are all volunteers who have been involved at the high school level.

NVPG is an advisory board that assists participating high schools in planning and implementing alcohol and drug free All Night Graduation Celebrations (ANGC). Each high school hosts an individual celebration with guidance and shared resources from NVPG. The high school committees are responsible for raising funds to host their ANGC and for organizing the activities and many volunteers. NVPG solicits corporate sponsors to provide gifts, services or cash as part of the Grand Prize Celebration, an incentive to maintain attendance at the individual celebrations. One graduate from each participating high school attends the Grand Prize Celebration and competes for prizes with values from \$500 to the grand prize of a new car.

#### **OP/G PRESENTATION TEAM**

The Presentation Team is drawn from experienced celebration chairpersons. Members are identified through the Honor Roll program, personal contacts, and celebration visitations.

#### **Virginia Operation Prom/Graduation Honors and Awards**

Virginia OP/G is privileged to have been singled out as an outstanding program. The following awards and honors have been received:

- Medallion Award, Virginia Public Relations Awards Program
- Distinguished Service Award, Commonwealth Alliance for Drug Rehabilitation and Education (CADRE) 1990 and 1991

- Best in Show Award, The National Council of State Education Communicators
- Gold Medallion Award, National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA)
- Distinguished Service Award, The National Commission Against Drunk Driving (NCADD)
- Resolution of Commendation, Virginia Council on Coordinating Prevention
- Outstanding State Project Award, District 2 (Roanoke area), Community Traffic Safety Board
- Recognition, 1991-92 Noteworthy Programs and Practices Award Program, The Southeast Regional Center (SERC) for Drug-Free Schools and Communities. OP/G has been showcased throughout the southeast region as a model for others, is featured in the SERC Fall, 1992 publication: *Shining Stars: Prevention Programs That Work in the Southeast*.
- Award for Excellence, Fairfax Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP) and the Northern Virginia chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).
- Governor's Transportation Safety Award: Education, 1994.
- Governor's Substance Abuse Prevention Award, 1997.
- Distinguished Achievement Award, EdPress, 1998.

#### **THANKS!**

*We appreciate the tremendous support we continue to receive from the Virginia Department of Education. Thanks to them for setting such a high standard for other state agencies to emulate.*

***Many thanks to the Virginia State Police Association for its support in making the Honor Roll Awards program a reality. They truly are the last of the "good guys." With efforts like these, our Virginia teens are the real winners!***

## WHY Have an After-Prom or After-Grad Celebration?

The two highest risk nights for teens are prom and graduation. Teens attend parties throughout the year, but peer pressure is highest on these two nights.

Many students feel as if they haven't really celebrated if they haven't been drinking or using other drugs. Unfortunately, some parents condone drinking parties rationalizing that since the students are going to drink anyway, why not provide them a place, take their keys, and watch over them? Unfortunately, the role models our students have—TV, movies, newspapers, magazines, and we, as parents and community members—all seem to send the same message: alcohol and/or other drugs are needed to celebrate an important occasion.

It is NOT enough to tell our students to “Just say, ‘No!’” We must give them an alternative to which they can and will say, “Yes!” This guide gives suggestions for planning alcohol/drug-free celebrations for these important nights in our teens' lives. **Why?** Because **we love them** and **they're worth it!** Here is a chance to give your teens a wonderful memory, keep them alive, build a tradition, and provide an alternative to which they can and will say, “**YES!**”

These celebrations are succeeding because of the commitment of the parents planning the celebrations, the backing of the schools and local governments, and the generous support of our communities. Students like celebrating all night with their friends and, at many schools, this has become the way to celebrate these special occasions. Communities throughout Virginia are reaching out to their young people with love, encouraging them to “**CELEBRATE LIFE!**” All of us working together can and have made a difference.

This guide is full of ideas and suggestions. Use what seems appropriate for your community and forget the rest. Use the schools as a support group only and incorporate students wherever you wish; but, first and foremost, use as many parents as possible.

It is hoped that ALL schools will share information and resources with each other. The idea is to provide a tragedy-free prom and graduation season for ALL teens. These celebrations are not in ANY way meant to be competition between communities, schools, or parents.

- Start early, involve as many parents as possible
- Have a plan - (Plan A, Plan B, and Plan C!) **Be flexible!**
- Security is now a priority, but keep your enthusiasm
- Remember this is for the students - food, prizes, and activities are tops with them
- Keep it simple

This will be an exciting, fun event for all who are involved besides being a wonderful tradition for your school and a great memory for your teens.

Plan a celebration for your students—THEY DESERVE IT!

## **EVERYONE BENEFITS!**

### **STUDENTS**

- Because the celebration is alcohol-free and drug-free, no one is under pressure to drink or use drugs.
- The cost to attend is minimal or free.
- At most celebrations everyone goes home with a prize or favor.
- Students will look back on this celebration as a very special night to remember.
- There's no pressure to have a date.
- Students experience a great time celebrating without the use of alcohol or other drugs.
- A tradition is established/continued which works as a positive force to combat chemical use and driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

### **STUDENTS: GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS**

- EVERY graduate has a celebration to attend on graduation night.
- All graduates are together to celebrate as a class, perhaps for the last time.

### **STUDENTS: AFTER-PROM CELEBRATIONS**

- EVERY eligible student has a celebration to attend on prom night—even if he or she has no date or cannot afford to attend the prom.

### **PARENTS**

- Parents know their children will not be using alcohol or drugs at this event.
- Parents know their children will not be driving drunk or drugged, riding as passengers with a drunk or drugged driver, or be on the road where an accident might occur.
- Parents know where their children are and that they are supervised.
- Parents make friends with other parents.
- Parents may think of ways to provide other alcohol/drug-free social activities for youth.
- Parents may begin to question whether alcohol always has to be part of their own celebrations and how that may influence their children's decision making regarding alcohol and other drugs.

### **THE COMMUNITY**

- Everyone works toward a common goal.
- The community takes pride in providing a positive experience for students.
- The community sees how everyone working together can make a difference.

### **REASONS FOR BUSINESSES, ORGANIZATIONS, SCHOOLS, AND PARENTS TO HELP**

- Business sponsorship generates community goodwill and publicity.
- Promotes a positive and united community message.
- Benefits ALL students—no one is left out of the fun.
- Prevents a possible tragedy.
- Shows students they can have fun without using alcohol or other drugs.
- Prevents peer pressure to drink or use other drugs.
- Keeps some parents from illegally serving alcohol to minors because there is an alternative option.
- Gives parents a worry-free night when they know their students are safe.

## A RECIPE FOR A SUCCESSFUL CELEBRATION

### **Ingredients:**

Lots of loving, enthusiastic parents  
 One large caring community  
 A full measure of support from school administration and teachers.

**Add in:** A large measure of planning, including workshops and sharing with other schools.

**Heat up:** Regular meetings of a steering committee to produce a fun and exciting theme.

**Fold in:** Lots of imagination to create fun entertainment and theme-related activities.

### **Just a pinch of:**

Creativity to make exciting inexpensive decorations.

### **Generously sprinkle:**

A heaping amount of donations and fundraising.

**Spread:** A large amount of publicity in your community and school with a generous amount of excitement to sell LOTS of tickets to your students.

Allow these ingredients to actively work and increase in volume until the night of the celebration.

On the night of the celebration—**Finish** the recipe **by combining:**

Many smiling volunteers and parents  
 Extra helpings of students' favorite foods  
 And a dash of security

**Blend in:** Lots and lots of students having a GREAT time, pumped by fun décor and loud music, enjoying exciting activities, winning a generous amount of prizes, and don't forget the pizza!

**Serve up** your goal of an All-Night Alcohol-free and Drug-free Celebration to keep the students in your school safe and tragedy free on the two highest risk nights of their lives: prom night and graduation night!

***This recipe is best when shared with others.***

**WORKING TOGETHER, WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**

# THE VIRGINIA OPERATION PROM/GRADUATION HONOR ROLL AWARDS PROGRAM

Each year all public and private high schools in Virginia are invited to submit an application for the Virginia Operation Prom/Graduation Honor Roll Awards.

## **The Purpose**

The purpose of this recognition program is to provide an incentive for all public and private high schools in Virginia to hold alternative alcohol/drug-free celebrations for teens during the two highest risk social seasons of the year — prom and graduation— and to encourage schools to share celebration ideas for use in the planning guide and/or workshops for the benefit of everyone.

## **Eligibility Criteria**

All public and private high schools in the state are eligible to participate. Judging is based on the use of available resources, involvement of the community, creativity, and willingness to share information and ideas.

## **Application Process**

Information and applications are sent to the All Night Celebration Committee at every Virginia public or private high school early in the calendar year (March - April).

Applications are due on September 1.

Supplemental materials are encouraged as they may be used in the selection process as well as for displays at workshops and in new editions of the Celebrate Life! Planning Guide.

## **Award Criteria**

Schools receiving an Honor Roll award will not be eligible to apply again for two years.

Awards are a minimum of \$500. Applications are judged on thoroughness and creativity. Greater consideration is given to those schools that:

- Maintain a high retention rate.
- Carry their theme through to the activities.
- Use innovative ideas to sell the students on the idea of attending.
- Involve their communities in ways other than donations.

## **Selection Process**

The selection committee meets in September.

The first vote is based solely upon the written application. Supplemental materials are reviewed before votes are tallied.

## **The Selection Committee**

The Honor Roll Selection Committee, comprised of five to seven individuals, is identified on an annual basis. Representatives of OP/G, the Virginia Department of Education and the Virginia State Police Association are usually included. Others with an interest and knowledge of the program may be invited to participate.

## **Awards**

The Honor Roll Award includes a check of at least \$500 to be used for the following year's celebration and a plaque to hang in the school's office. The Award of Distinction is a handsomely framed resolution signed by the Virginia Department of Education State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

## THE HONOR ROLL 1990—2003

In 1990, the awards were funded by **Pepsi-Cola Company, Virginia State MADD, the Virginia State Police Association, and the Virginia Association of Driver Education and Traffic Safety.**

From 1990-1993 all plaques were provided by the **Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.** and all cash awards were funded by the **Virginia State Police Association.**

Since 1994, both the cash awards and plaques have been provided by the **Virginia State Police Association.** *NOTE: Schools are listed alphabetically.*

### 2003

- Annandale High School, *Fairfax County*
- Atlee High School, *Hanover County*
- Bath County High School, *Bath County*
- Bayside High School, *City of Virginia Beach*
- Brooke Point High School, *Stafford County*
- Brookville High School, *Campbell County*
- Floyd Kellam High School, *City of Virginia Beach*
- Glenvar High School, *Roanoke County*
- Graham High School, *Tazewell County*
- Heritage High School, *City of Newport News*
- James Madison High School, *Fairfax County*
- Jefferson Forest High School, *Bedford County*
- Loudoun Valley High School, *Loudoun County*
- Madison County High School, *Madison County*
- Nansemond River HS, *City of Suffolk*
- Patrick County High School, *Patrick County*
- Paul VI High School, *City of Fairfax*
- Thomas Dale High School, *Chesterfield County*
- William Monroe High School, *Greene County*
- York High School, *York County*

### 2002

- Colonial Heights High School, *Colonial Heights City*
- George Mason High School, *City of Falls Church*
- Grafton High School, *York County*
- Hickory High School, *City of Chesapeake*
- J.E.B. Stuart High School, *Fairfax County*
- Princess Anne High School, *City of Virginia Beach*
- Roanoke Catholic, *Roanoke*
- Tabb High School, *York County*
- Tunstall High School, *Pittsylvania County*
- Westfield High School, *Fairfax County*

### 2001

- Clover Hill High School, *Chesterfield County*
- L. C. Bird High School, *Chesterfield County*
- Loudoun County High School, *Loudoun County*
- Magna Vista High School, *Henry County*
- Menchville High School, *City of Newport News*
- Midlothian High School, *Chesterfield County*

### 2000

- Brooke Point High School, *Stafford County*
- Jefferson Forest High School, *Bedford County*
- King William High School, *King William County*
- Madison County High School, *Madison County*
- Maury High School, *City of Norfolk*
- Orange County High School, *Orange County*
- Tallwood High School, *City of Virginia Beach*
- Virginia High School, *City of Bristol*
- Warren County High School, *Warren County*
- West Springfield High School, *Fairfax County*

### 1999

- Bayside High School, *City of Virginia Beach*
- Hickory High School, *City of Chesapeake*
- John I. Burton High School, *City of Norton*
- Loudoun Valley High School, *Loudoun County*
- Martinsville High School, *City of Martinsville*
- Meadowbrook High School, *Chesterfield County*
- Mt. Vernon High School, *Fairfax County*

### 1998

- Douglas Freeman High School, *Henrico County*
- Hampton High School, *City of Hampton*
- Langley High School, *Fairfax County*
- L. C. Bird High School, *Chesterfield County*
- Oakton High School, *Fairfax County*
- Midlothian High School, *Chesterfield County*
- Poquoson High School, *City of Poquoson*
- Stonewall Jackson High School, *Prince William Co.*
- W. T. Woodson High School, *Fairfax County*

### 1997

- Broad Run High School, *Loudoun County*
- Luray High School, *Page County*
- Madison County High School, *Madison County*
- George Mason High School, *City of Falls Church*
- J.E.B. Stuart High School, *Fairfax County*
- Tazewell High School, *Tazewell County*

 **1996**

- **Bishop Ireton High School**, *City of Alexandria*
- **Goochland High School**, *Goochland County*
- **Loudoun Valley High School**, *Loudoun County*
- **Luray High School**, *Page County*
- **Madison County High School**, *Madison County*
- **Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology**, *Fairfax County*

 **1995**

- **Bath County High School**, *Bath County*
- **Langley High School**, *Fairfax County*
- **Lee High School**, *Lee County*
- **Loudoun Valley High School**, *Loudoun County*
- **Park View High School**, *Loudoun County*
- **Madison County High School**, *Madison County*

 **1994**

- **Colonial Heights High School**, *City of Colonial Heights*
- **Broad Run High School**, *Loudoun County*
- **Council High School, Garden High School, Grundy Senior High School, Hurley High School, Whitewood High School**, *Buchanan County*
- **J. J. Kelly High School**, *Wise County*
- **Madison County High School**, *Madison County*
- **Midlothian High School**, *Chesterfield County*

### ***1994 AWARDS OF DISTINCTION***

These awards have no monetary value. They recognize meritorious and distinctive efforts.

- **Fairfax High School**, *Fairfax County*
- **Middlesex High School**, *Middlesex County*
- **South Lakes High School**, *Fairfax County*

 **1993**

- **Buckingham County High School**, *Buckingham County*
- **Central High School**, *Shenandoah County*
- **Colonial Heights High School**, *City of Colonial Heights*
- **Council High School, Garden High School, Grundy Senior High School, Hurley High School, Whitewood High School**, *Buchanan County*
- **Poquoson High School**, *City of Poquoson*
- **W. T. Woodson High School**, *Fairfax County*

### ***1993 AWARDS OF DISTINCTION***

These awards have no monetary value. They recognize meritorious and distinctive efforts.

- **Madison County High School**, *Madison County*
- **Park View High School**, *Loudoun County*

 **1992**

- **Loudoun Valley High School**, *Loudoun County*
- **Madison County High School**, *Madison County*
- **Martinsville High School**, *City of Martinsville*
- **Northside High School**, *Roanoke County*
- **Northumberland High School**, *Northumberland County*
- **South Lakes High School**, *Fairfax County*

 **1991**

- **Centreville High School**, *Fairfax County*
- **Franklin County High School**, *Franklin County*
- **Gloucester High School**, *Gloucester County*
- **Madison County High School**, *Madison County*
- **Martinsville High School**, *City of Martinsville*
- **Randolph-Henry High School**, *Charlotte County*

 **1990**

- **Christiansburg High School**, *Montgomery County*
- **James River High School**, *Botetourt County*
- **Madison County High School**, *Madison County*
- **Magna Vista High School**, *Henry County*
- **Park View High School**, *Loudoun County*

## WHY WE SAID, “YES!”

We said, “**Yes!**” to supporting the *All Night After-Prom and After-Graduation Celebrations* because our students had the guts to say “**NO!**” to drugs and alcohol. For members of the business community, it means supporting a widespread and growing effort that can not only change lives, but save them. To parents who dedicate untold hours of time, energy, and money organizing the celebrations, it means working hard to protect the ones they love the most. To teachers and administrators, saying “Yes!” means a real victory in their fight against a seemingly invincible enemy.

None of us can change the world in one night. We just hope to change what has become an annual tragedy: losing our youth to the deadly mix of drugs, alcohol, and driving, at what should be a time of celebration. If we can help save one life, or prevent one serious injury, we will have succeeded.

Perhaps these nights of sober celebrating will remind us all of our huge capacity for being able to have a great time without having to pay a great cost. Make it **THE NIGHT OF YOUR LIVES**, students. And remember, we said, “**Yes!**” so you wouldn’t have to.

*The Proud Supporters of Virginia’s Operation Prom/Graduation*

## **HELP EACH OTHER!**

If there are several schools in the same vicinity that are all having prom or graduation celebrations, consider joining forces for some or all aspects of celebration planning and implementation. By all means, share whatever information you can with neighboring schools. It will prove beneficial to everyone. Join with other schools for fundraising.

### **HOLD A “GRAND FINALE” CELEBRATION**

RAYSAC (Roanoke Area Youth Substance Abuse Coalition) has held a “Grand Finale” celebration each year in Roanoke. The Grand Finale Event is to recognize those students who participate in their school’s After-Prom celebrations. This Grand Finale Event offers a new car as the grand prize, two mountain bicycles, and other quality prizes such as electronic personal organizers, telephone answering machines, and boom boxes. As an additional incentive to remain drug and alcohol free for the entire prom night, only students still present at the end of their After-Prom Celebration are eligible to win these prizes. Four juniors or seniors are chosen from those students remaining at the end of their Celebration, along with up to four alternates. The four students are then invited to attend the Grand Finale in early June, at Valley View Mall. There they will play some “wacky Olympic” games and are given a key to try for the vehicle.

### **GIVE ONE CELEBRATION FOR SEVERAL SCHOOLS**

The Charlottesville City and Albemarle County schools join together to hold one joint celebration after their four individual proms, which are all held separately but on the same night. The Community Action Council coordinates, plans, and implements the After-Prom Celebration, “*All Night Long*,” which is held at the University of Virginia. All festivities are free with a validated prom invitation from the student’s school.

The five Buchanan County high schools join together to hold one joint After-Prom celebration on the night of their individual proms. School staff, principals, class sponsors, school board members, and parents are all involved to coordinate this effort.

### **FORM A REGIONAL ORGANIZATION**

#### **Clean Teen**

The Henry County and Martinsville City Schools have joined together to form “**Clean Teen**” and host primarily After-Prom celebrations.

#### **City-wide Celebrate Life**

The Virginia Beach High Schools have joined together to form “City-wide Celebrate Life” that operates very much like Northern Virginia Project Graduation and hosts primarily graduation celebrations.

#### **Northern Virginia Project Graduation (NVPG)**

Public and private schools in the Northern Virginia areas of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties, and the cities of Alexandria and Falls Church City joined together to form Northern Virginia Project Graduation. This organization provides resources and information, solicits major businesses and organizations common to all or most of the schools, and provides a grand prize for each school. Each school plans and implements its own individual celebration, but all follow the same general celebration guidelines. Each school agrees not to solicit from the regional corporate donor list. This group has found that by working together it can more easily:

- Share information about all aspects of the celebration.
- Order items in quantity for a better price.
- Support new celebration chairpersons.
- Share facilities, decorations, and equipment between schools.
- Obtain donations that would not be available to individual schools.
- Work with donors to distribute items equitably between schools.
- Set up deliveries for supplies to be received by all (pizza, soft drinks, etc.)
- Generate area-wide publicity



## JUST FOR STUDENTS

Sometimes it is the students who really want to have the party, but they can't convince any organized group to help them. The class or club sponsor says the project is *too* big, etc., but the students are determined to find a way.

### **YOU WANT A PARTY, BUT YOU CAN'T FIND ANYONE TO SPONSOR IT.**

- ! Convince the class advisor(s), club sponsor(s), or principal of the need, importance, and desire to hold an after-prom or graduation celebration.
- ! Hold a meeting of all interested persons.
- ! Personally invite as many parents as possible—and get your friends to do the same.
- ! Personally invite as many community representatives, newspaper reporters, radio station news staff, law enforcement, DARE Officers, and community substance abuse staff as possible. Ask the class or club advisor, your school guidance counselor, or school secretary to help you find the names, addresses and phone numbers of these people.
- ! **Go to the meeting with a plan.** Show them a copy of this guide. Convince these people the project is needed and that students will attend. Ask for their help.

### **YOU TRIED GETTING THE ADULTS TOGETHER BUT THEY THINK IT'S TOO MUCH EFFORT AND NO ONE WILL COME.** (They're NOT going to help.)

- ! Find one adult—ANY adult. Adults usually do not have to be school employees to sponsor a club or activity. (Try your parents, or your best friend's mom or dad.)
- ! Solicit the backing of the school principal. You will need it for insurance purposes and to order and purchase supplies, equipment, etc.
- ! Use this guide book and plan the party.

### **PARENTS ARE HOSTING AN AFTER-PROM OR GRADUATION CELEBRATION AND YOU WANT TO HELP, BUT THEY DON'T SEEM TO WANT YOU.**

- ! Call the celebration chairperson and ask to represent students on the steering committee.
- ! Offer to put together a survey to find out what the students would like at the party.
- ! Offer to do something specific for the party.