

Keeping Youth SAFE: Tips for home parties:

Be prepared:

- Discuss all the party plans with all family members.
- With the help of your teen determine the responsibilities
- What time will the party begin and end? How late do you want to stay up? What is going on the next day?
- Are other parents aware of your hours of the party? Keep in mind the provisional driver license restrictions. (12 am to 5 am)
- Encourage parents to call you before the party. Be sure they know when the party ends so they know when to expect their teen.
- Not your house:
If the party is in another location allow for travel time when deciding on a curfew
Develop a signal or code with your teen in case they need help

Inside:

- Identify which areas of the house are permissible to be in.
- Check bathroom medicine cabinet and remove all medicines for the night
- If there is a recreation room refrigerator, monitor that.
- Secure your own alcohol supply
- Extra adults can rotate their “assignments” to reduce “boredom”

Outside:

- Let your neighbors know so that they will understand about the increase number of parked cars in your neighborhood. Check for parking and outside lighting.
- Police can patrol your area if you want. Contact your District Commander.
- Keep your front and back lights on
- Take random walks around your home throughout the evening-take the dog if you have one

House rules:

- Develop your rules about alcohol, marijuana/other drugs, smoking.
- Do all the guests know that alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs are not allowed in your home?
- What will you do if these substances show up at your party?
Who will you call-parents or police?
- Decide where you want coats, purses, cell phones, or any bags to be stored during your party.
How will you keep them secure: a specific room, lock the door, adult monitor the possessions
A monitor will reduce items getting mixed up upon leaving
- Will you allow larger bags for example for a change of clothes? You have every right to look inside. Use vinyl gloves as you do not know the nature of the contents!
- Decide which door will be used for entrance and exit. Choosing one will reduce the chances of unwanted guests.
Have someone at the entrance to meet and greet, check each guest off the list
- How bright will the room lights be? How dim will the lights be? How will you monitor this room?
- Who will be allowed to operate your electronics: movie, games, etc?

Guest strategies:

- Invitations and a guest lists are tools. They offer you a way to limit the number in your home and to provide you with names and phone numbers in case these are needed in an emergency, illness, accidental injury, etc.
- Check each one off upon arrival.

- Determine how many guests you can handle in your home
- Internet invitations usually reach more than the intended guests.
- Recommendation: once a guest is in the party, do not allow them to leave unless they are ready to go home. Sometimes car trunks, underneath bushes, behind garden walls hide the alcohol or other drugs.
- How will you handle party crashers?
Remember word of mouth is the fastest means of communication

Food service:

- Allow parents to contribute to the refreshments. Schedule them throughout the evening so they have an opportunity to “see” how things are going.
- Use small serving bowls/dishes/baskets for snacks/refreshments so that you will have the opportunity to refill them often through out the party.
This gives you a reason to circulate; you are the “server”
- Beverages can be served from one location: the kitchen for example.
- Fill the kitchen sink with ice for liters of soda, juices, water to keep them cold.
- Keep in mind it is easier to monitor cups of beverages. Using cups will help with portion control or spillage. Empty cups encourage a guest must to return for a refill. A fresh cup of beverage is safer than returning to a partial beverage that has been unattended.
- An adult should be present at the beverage station at all times
- Often unattended open beverage containers are vulnerable to having drugs or alcohol added to the contents. Teach your teen to get a fresh, unopened beverage.
- Periodic clean up affords the chance to observe

Emergency preparedness:

- Plan ahead of time where guests will congregate should you need to evacuate your home in an emergency. Designate a person to make sure everyone has left your home safely.
- Remind the teens to look out for each other. Do not leave someone passed out, unattended (under a bed, in a closet, behind the furnace) It is better to call 911
- Sometimes an emergency arises: sprained ankle, unintentional fall, etc. Have contact information for each of your guests. Consider having two or more adults present. IF an emergency occurs one adult can tend to the emergency, the other can monitor the other guests.
- If a guest’s parents are not available what is plan B if an emergency arises?
- Numbers to have handy: 911, police nonemergency number: 301-279-8000

National laws:

- Remember that it is illegal to serve alcohol to children under the age of 21.
- Remember it is illegal to permit smoking for children under the age of 18.

For further assistance call 301-670-SAFE (7233).

Keeping It SAFE: Under 21 alcohol prevention coalition

240-777-6652

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