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Let's Join Together To End Violence!

S.A.V.E.

STUDENTS AGAINST VIOLENCE EVERYWHERE

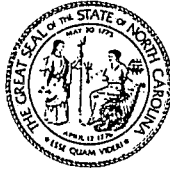


North Carolina Center for the Prevention of School Violence

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Department of Crime Control and Public Safety
Governor's Crime Commission



North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety Governor's Crime Commission

James B. Hunt Jr., Governor

Thurman B. Hampton, Secretary

Students Against Violence Everywhere.: Proaction not Reaction

Dear Friend:

Thanks for inquiring about the Students Against Violence Everywhere (S.A.V.E.) Program. The Center is delighted to send you this packet of information regarding the organization. In it you will discover S.A.V.E.'s history, goals, strategies and much more. We will be happy to assist you in setting up an organization in your community and school.

The key to this program is that it is **student initiated**. It is a long range, proactive approach. In addition, all members can become skilled in peer mediation and conflict resolution. S.A.V.E. members are currently visiting many elementary, middle and junior high schools to deliver a message of non-violence.

S.A.V.E. involves teaching young people to resolve conflict among themselves. Members can do role plays demonstrating right and wrong solutions to conflict. Another project involves gun safety and awareness by teaching a student what to do if they encounter a gun or a live cartridge. We challenge you to design programs that will help bring an end to senseless violence. Please be sure to put this information in the hands of that special person who will make a difference. Utilize the guidelines to establish a chapter. Please feel free to use the constitution that we have provided. Let's all get involved now! Together we will make a difference! With respect, caring and unity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pamela L. Riley".

Pamela L. Riley, Ed.D.
Director, C.P.S.V.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Weart".

Gary Weart
S.A.V.E. Coordinator

North Carolina Center for the Prevention of School Violence
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Monday, November 22, 1993

For the record: Gov. Jim Hunt

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Keeping schools safe

■ Gov. Jim Hunt spoke Wednesday to the N.C. School Boards Association. Here are excerpts from the portion of his text dealing with school violence.

All our efforts to raise standards will be wasted if our children are unsafe in the classroom. Children can't learn in an atmosphere of violence.

We've begun to combat school violence. Based on the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on School Violence, the General Assembly passed a series of safe school laws. The centerpiece of our new safe schools laws is the "weapons-free school zone." We'll be putting these signs up in schools throughout the state, reminding people of the law. It is now a felony to bring any firearm onto school grounds, or to knowingly allow a minor to bring a weapon to school. And it's now illegal for a parent to leave a gun where a child can easily get at it and take it to school. Other safe schools laws improve communication between the authorities and school officials so we can keep our eye on students who might be dangerous.



Hunt

Schools across the state and nation have begun to copy West Charlotte High's SAVE program.

Last month, our Center for the Prevention of School Violence opened. This clearinghouse will provide hands-on, technical assistance to schools and communities to help them develop school violence prevention programs. And we've set up a grants program so that school systems can apply for up to \$100,000. The center's director is Dr. Pamela Riley, a former principal. You can call her at (800) 299-6054.

But we must first decide that we are going to do something about school violence. When even one or two people join together for a great cause, their enthusiasm can bring hundreds into the fight. Let me tell you about Jason Hill and Michael Williams, two high school students I met from West Charlotte High. Both suffered the grief of having a close friend murdered. Both of them knew the murderers. And both of them have gotten involved at West Charlotte High in "Students Against Violence Everywhere" — SAVE — because they want to do everything they can to make sure they don't bury another friend.

The first meeting of SAVE

brought out 300 students and those students worked with peer mediation and conflict resolution programs. SAVE cut the number of kids who were caught bringing weapons into school, and now other schools across the state and nation have begun to copy this program. A group of people from schools, government and the private sector will gather in Raleigh to roll up their sleeves and hammer out a blueprint for bringing SAVE chapters to every school in North Carolina.

I urge you to go home and spread the word to your student leaders — help us keep your schools safe!

Thomas Jefferson said that our land was the only country where every person would meet invasions of the public order as his (or her) own personal concern.

Either all of us will face the issue of school violence as our own personal concern; or it will spread in our schools like a deadly infection, robbing our children of a good education, safe surroundings and a happy and carefree childhood.

Let's join together, forming groups and clubs and programs that teach our students how to respond to violence, how to avoid violence and how to resolve problems without violence. With everything else they're being taught in school, that may be the most important lesson they ever learn.

*This program is dedicated to those
students across North Carolina
who have been affected by
senseless acts of violence.*

STOP THE VIOLENCE!

INTRODUCTION

Violence in North Carolina, as well as in the rest of the country, has increased substantially in the past few years. In fact, the reported violent crime rate in this state has increased by more than 35 percent in just the last five years. That rate of increase in such a short period is greater than in any comparable period in the past, or at least since reliable records have been maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reports. Since 1987, North Carolina's violent crime rate has risen faster than all but a few states nationwide. Also, reported robberies in this state have risen faster than any other state in the nation. During that same period, the number of reported arrests of young people, 14 years of age or less, for violent offenses increased by 100 percent! The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta has listed violence as the second leading killer of teens in America. Among African-American men between the ages of 15 and 24, violence is the leading cause of death.

It is not surprising that the level of violence in public schools is increasing as well. Violence in schools cannot be separated from the larger problem of violence in communities. Studies have shown, in fact, that the conditions of schools are strongly influenced by the conditions of their neighborhoods.

The North Carolina Center for the Prevention of School Violence also recognizes that in order to have a long-term and comprehensive impact on the level of violence in public schools, much more needs to be done in the area of prevention and education. The recommendations that attempt to focus more resources on schools are proposed with that in mind, and with the intent of broadening the scope of violence reduction to include the community as a whole.

HISTORY

In April of 1989 over 200 students from West Charlotte Senior High School gathered at a party. A carload of guys from a rival school showed up armed with baseball bats and looking for trouble. One of the intruders pulled a gun and started firing random shots. As partyers panicked, 17-year-old Alex Orange stepped in. Alex, a fullback on the school's football team, was a guy who looked out for other people. Alex grabbed the gun and tried to wrestle it away. His grip slipped and the gun's owner fired into his chest eight times. Alex fell to the floor. Surrounded by shaken friends and schoolmates, he held on for a few moments, and then died.

Alex Orange could have become just another statistic. But the following Monday morning, grieving students refused to let that happen. Wearing orange armbands and gathering in the school's cafeteria, they organized against violence in Alex's honor. The group that they formed is S.A.V.E.

OBJECTIVE

Students Against Violence Everywhere promotes non-violence within the school and community. S.A.V.E. provides education about the effects and consequences of violence and helps provide safe extracurricular activities for students, parents and the community.

S.A.V.E. is open to all students who want to support an attitude of non-violence. The organization should meet regularly to learn about alternatives to violence and to promote its message to other schools and throughout the community. School participation restrictions may vary.

With the help of the North Carolina Center for the Prevention of School Violence, S.A.V.E. chapters have been established in at least four states. A big advantage of the program is its cost effectiveness. Students are encouraged to pay a nominal dues amount to give a sense of ownership.

S.A.V.E. has been a vital organization at schools which have chapters. The number of students reported to have brought weapons to school has dropped and incidents involving violence are down. Administrators assigned to the schools say students' attitudes about violence have changed.

S.A.V.E. promotes non-violence through its participation in school and community events, visits to other schools and interviews with the media. Members have prepared skits representing common situations that could lead to violence and actors show how to resolve situations. Various programs are presented for both elementary and secondary students. Programs target entire student bodies or small groups of students who are at risk of being involved in violence.

NEEDS STATEMENT

Violence, whether related to the school or community, has affected students and staff of North Carolina's public schools in several ways: a teacher is shot at a football game; a student is killed at a party; students are being arrested for bringing weapons to school. Students look for answers about what they can do to stop the violence. In the midst of their grief and anger, they band together to start an organization which would allow them to work toward solutions and find alternatives to violence.

This new organization would extend beyond their own school to other schools and the community and both educate people about violence and provide a safe atmosphere via extracurricular activities.

Violence in North Carolina, as well as in the rest of the country, has increased substantially in the past few years. In fact:

- Violent crime rate in this state has increased by more than 35 percent in just the last five years.
- Since 1987, North Carolina's violent crime rate has risen faster than all but a few states nationwide.
- Robberies in this state have risen faster than any other state in the nation.
- The number of reported arrests of young people, 15 years of age or less, for violent offenses increased by 100 percent.
- The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta has identified violence as the second leading killer of teens.
- For African-American males between the ages of 15 and 24, violence is the leading cause of death.

The North Carolina Center for the Prevention of School Violence recognizes that in order to have a long-term and comprehensive impact on the level of violence in public schools, much more needs to be done in the area of prevention and education. It is the Center's mission to provide technical assistance and program development which will have a lasting effect on school violence. S.A.V.E. is a vital element in finding a solution towards preventing violence in schools.

PLANNING (MAKE IT HAPPEN)

ORGANIZATIONAL GUIDELINES (Step-by-Step)

1. Get permission from your principal to form a S.A.V.E. chapter at your school.
2. The Student Body President and Faculty Advisor should be contacted and advised of your interest to form a S.A.V.E. chapter.
3. Discover an inspired faculty member or group of advisors to serve as your S.A.V.E. advisor(s). Look to other staff members to assist your chapter, such as coaches, School Resource Officers and support staff.
4. For the initial meeting find a convenient time and place to discuss the formation of the chapter.

5. Agenda for the first meeting:
 - a. The reasons/need for S.A.V.E. as they exist in your school.
 - b. Why S.A.V.E. exists (history)
 - c. Commitment to the goals and objectives of S.A.V.E.
 - d. Announce the time, date and location of the next meeting. The agenda for that meeting should be to elect officers and review the S.A.V.E. Constitution. Ask for volunteers now to serve on a steering committee that will at least have a rough draft of the constitution prepared to the next meeting (see Attachment 1).
6. If the steering committee for the constitution has completed its writing, it needs to be approved by the principal, the Student Advisory Council and/or the Student Government Association and the membership.
7. Dues should be kept low so not to exclude anyone. Established chapters have settled on two dollars per member per year. This can be used to offset the costs of printing and mailing as well as the establishment of a scholarship fund. Commitment/Assistance from the business community is **strongly** encouraged.
8. Activities and Ideas:
 - a. Membership drives (bring a friend, dues, recruiting)
 - b. Community Awareness (news media, billboards, posters, school newspapers, Adopt-A-Highway, etc.)
 - c. Sponsorship of activities (dances, rallies, athletic events, etc.)
 - d. Creating new organizations at other schools. (helping them get started, guidelines, ideas, etc.)
 - e. Programs for other schools (elementary, junior high, middle, senior high skits, videos, speakers, promoting non-violence, peer helpers).
 - f. Coordination with law enforcement (training to include do's and don't's in violent situations, appropriate responses and behaviors, etc. Have a policeman come to the meetings to foster better public relations).

*** REMEMBER, THIS ORGANIZATION WILL BE AS GOOD AS YOU WANT IT TO BE! LIVES ARE DEPENDING ON ITS SUCCESS!!!**

IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION

S.A.V.E. members participate in a variety of activities to promote the organization and its message. Along with building a strong membership, the organization should strive to influence other students and people in the community. To increase the number of students in the club a membership drive

can be held during the early months of the school year in the school lobby at lunchtime. Dues should be limited to as nominal amount as possible to allow all students to participate but enough to cover the cost of the organization's minor expenses, including the cost of banners, signs, and supplies and a \$500 scholarship awarded annually.

S.A.V.E. may promote its message of non-violence at many school functions with signs and banners, announcements on the school intercom system and on the schools closed circuit T.V. system (if available). Community awareness is a main focus of the program and students are encouraged to participate in as many functions and events as possible to spread the word.

Suggested activities include Thanksgiving and Christmas parades, your high school's homecoming parade through the neighborhood; a Martin Luther King Day parade; a booth at the local fair where students perform skits and distribute literature; and media features, such as a one-hour cablevision presentation and a radio call-in show for students to promote S.A.V.E.. When they participate in other school functions, such as football or basketball games, students can hang banners or signs to remind spectators of the violence-free school area. Community reaction will be positive. Comments during past radio talk shows indicate people are pleased with this positive step being taken by students. When members march in parades, they are met with applause along the entire route as the community shows its appreciation. Another way to keep the organization visible is for S.A.V.E. to sponsor dances, rallies and athletic events. The school image has improved and more students and parents are attending events.

The chapter should prepare a newsletter for its own members and for S.A.V.E. chapters at other schools. Members of other clubs should be invited to join S.A.V.E. and to march in parades or participate in other events. The newsletter is also one way to share ideas about activities.

Skits can be used to introduce students to their topic involving situations that many students may face in their own lives, such as boyfriend-girlfriend conflicts or jealousy. Students may also learn new ways to deal with students who break into the cafeteria line, start a fight on the bus, or accidentally push someone. The S.A.V.E. Students may act out a situation and then reenact it in an appropriate manner to show how to resolve it without violence.

The enthusiasm of students around North Carolina is another sign that S.A.V.E. is an important part of the school scene. That positive energy should be tapped in helping schools start their own chapters.

One goal of S.A.V.E. is to work with local law enforcement. School Resource Officers often speak to S.A.V.E. Chapters at their meetings about how to handle potentially violent situations and how to resolve conflict. Students get to know their School Resource Officers and feel comfortable talking to them about school or

community situations. "Kids come to me in confidence or to help them solve a problem before it starts," says School Resource Officer Howard Nivens of the Charlotte Police Department. When Nivens heard about a rumored fight planned for a basketball game, he called certain students together and told them not to come. "I contacted their parents who backed us. There was no problem."

S.A.V.E. has become an outlet when students and staff need to deal with violent situations in the community. Following a recent fatal stabbing of a West Charlotte graduate, retired Principal Barbara Ledford of West Charlotte High School asked S.A.V.E. to provide support for the student body.

Although several factors may contribute to statistics about violent incidents in the school system, the impact of S.A.V.E. must be included in the efforts being made to end conflict and violence. When the number of students excluded from school in the entire Charlotte/Mecklenburg County school system reached an all-time high in 1988-1989, S.A.V.E. was started. Since then, the number dropped from 498 to 440 in 1989-90 and 365 in 1990-1991.

COST EFFECTIVENESS

S.A.V.E. should have few expenses and is extremely cost effective. Students pay an average \$2 per year for dues and that money covers expenses such as supplies for signs and banners. No salaries are involved, as advisors volunteer their time. S.A.V.E. could spend about \$60 on art supplies during its first year. A scholarship might be the primary expense, which could be left to the discretion of each chapter. Advisors have said a chapter could be operated for "next to nothing"

BUTTONS, BUMPER STICKERS, TEE SHIRTS

Inquiries are often made as to the availability of buttons, bumper stickers, and tee shirts. The design for any of these items is left to your imagination! If your school or neighboring school has a graphics arts department, **use that resource.** Customize your materials to your particular needs and liking. Sponsor a campus-wide contest for the best design and solicit private sponsorship to defray the cost. Such a contest would be a great idea for a fund raiser or your chapter's kick-off! Be creative. Most printshops and/or tee shirt shops can design and manufacture any item you wish.

On the next page are designs for buttons and bumper stickers which have been used successfully in the past.

Button



Colors

Orange and Purple (the color of non-violence) with white lettering and drawing of people being encircled with a ring of non-violence (purple). Ideals of peace, respect, justice, love, unity and brotherhood, also featured. Button can list your school and year founded.

Bumper Sticker



Colors

Orange with white lettering.

Vendor used in past:
(buttons & bumper
stickers)

Print America
Atten: Ray Broome
6636 East W.T. Harris Blvd., Suite F
Charlotte, North Carolina 28215
PHONE (704) 535-9595
FAX (704) 535-2598

Cost: \$.50 each with a minimum order of \$25.00 plus shipping and handling.

CHAPTER REGISTRATION

S.A.V.E. Chapters should register with the North Carolina Center for the Prevention of School Violence (Attachment 2). After the Center has received your registration form, your chapter will be added to our mailing list. You will receive the Center's Newsletter along with information on upcoming events for S.A.V.E. chapters.

SAMPLE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	STRATEGY(S)/CRITICAL	EVALUATION	ANTICIPATED RESULTS
1 To create an organization to promote non-violence	1 Students form an organization to create a positive, safe school atmosphere.	1 The opportunity was provided for all students to join the organization	1 Membership consistently includes 150-250 students involved in promoting the program's goals.
2 To create an awareness of the organization	2 Students participate in school and community activities; actively work to promote SAVE; recruit new members and start new chapters.	2 Media coverage of SAVE events: membership continues to grow within school; other chapters have been established.	2 School and community have numerous opportunities to learn about SAVE.
3 To provide a safe atmosphere in which learning and extracurricular activities can take place.	3 Students provide frequent reminders through signs, publications, announcements, T-Shirts about the organization and its message.	3 Verbal feedback from participants who understand the importance of resolving conflict.	3 Conflict-free, non-violent activities are held.
4 To develop a consistently non-violent environment at all school functions.	4 Student members are present at most activities to create an awareness of the organization.	4 Members are visible at school functions and in the community.	4 Number of incidents related to violence has decreased.
5 To spread the message by helping other schools start chapters.	5 Students respond to schools interested in starting SAVE chapters and receiving information.	5 Members send materials, give presentations about how to start a chapter.	5 New chapters are started.
6 To publicize the program.	6 Students send out information packets to every middle and high school in the school system; contact local media about organization's activities; work with local media on situations related to violence.	6 Students outline what schools need information and how to publicize to the community.	6 Feature stories aired on local television stations; one-hour special aired on cable channel; newspaper articles printed and presentations made to more than half of the secondary schools in the school system.

SAMPLE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	STRATEGY(S)/CRITICAL	EVALUATION	ANTICIPATED RESULTS
7 To improve the image of the school system in the community.	7 Students present information through TV programs, school board presentations, local media, community meetings and new chapter presentations.	7 Feedback from students and parents shows favorable reaction.	7 Program expanding to other schools. Attendance at functions increasing; public shows confidence and is returning to school functions.
8 To reduce conflict in other schools.	8 Students respond to requests from staf and students who need help in solving problems related to fights.	8 Visit Schools and present skits to show alternatives to violence. Skits targeted to student body or to students who have a history of being in trouble.	8 Atmosphere has improved. New students recruited. Middle school students who have been promoted have joined the chapter.
9 To work closely with local police and support the school resource officer, if applicable.	9 The resource officer participates in the organization by making presentations and attending; police have increased visibility at school.	9 Feedback from police who say the involvement has opened lines of communication and assists them with their jobs both on campus and in the community.	9 SAVE activities help establish trust between students and police and help students feel more comfortable going to police with problems or rumors about potentially violence situations.
10 To increase membership.	10 Recruit new members weekly through the first quarter.	10 Members make conscious decisions to join the organization and think twice before becoming involved in situations which might lead to conflict.	10 Between 15 and 20 percent of the student body is involved in SAVE. It could become the schools largest organziation. No active SAVE members shall be involved in incidents leading to exclusion from school.
11 To provide an outlet for students to act when a crisis occurs.	11 SAVE provides a way to help students find answers to recurring problems of community violence and to help students with the healing process.	11 Students hold special meetings to address what's happened in special situations.	11 Membership increases during times when students are drawn together following a crisis. Interest in SAVE grows because students are looking for ways to prevent further incidents.
12 To save lives.	12 Students learn how to deal with conflict and resolution and find alternatives to violence.	12 Program shows students how to deal with their emotions, frustrations and problems.	12 SAVE is one factor in helping students understand the outcome of violence. Members hope it influences behavior which could save lives.

S.A.V.E.

STUDENTS AGAINST VIOLENCE EVERYWHERE

SAMPLE CONSTITUTION

PURPOSE

The Purpose of S.A.V.E. is to promote Non-Violence in the school and community environment. S.A.V.E. will provide education about the effects and consequences of violence and provide safe extra-curricular activities for students.

MEMBERSHIP

S.A.V.E. will be open to all students with no regard to academic performance or school and community participation. The involvement of both members and officers will be evaluated through a point system. Each member and officer will be required to obtain a set number of points determined by the importance of the activity. (i.e. Visiting an elementary school to teach children ways to avoid violence = 30 points. Coming to S.A.V.E. meetings = 5 points). Failure to reach the set number of points will result in the suspension of members and the demotion of officers.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

All candidates for offices will have to have been a member of S.A.V.E. the previous year. They have to have earned a minimum number of points (determined by the current officers). Elections will be held according to parliamentary procedure. In the event of the demotion of an officer, the member(s) who have accumulated the most points will be eligible for the position.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

S.A.V.E. will have the following officers:

President: Preside over meetings and be responsible for all public relations communication.

Vice President: Assume President's responsibilities when he/she is not present.

Secretary/Treasurer: Record minutes of meetings and receive Monetary donations.

MEETINGS

S.A.V.E. meetings will be held at least twice a month. All decisions will be made according to parliamentary procedure.

Principal's Signature _____ Date _____

S.A.V.E.

STUDENTS AGAINST VIOLENCE EVERYWHERE Chapter Registration Form

Contact Name: _____

School: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Advisors:

_____ Home Phone: _____

_____ Home Phone: _____

_____ Home Phone: _____

President: _____

Date Chapter Started: _____

Number of Members: _____

Please return this form to:

North Carolina Center for the
Prevention of School Violence
3824 Barrett Drive, Suite 303
Raleigh, North Carolina 27609