



## MEDIA RELEASE

### OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

ANDERSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

SHERIFF PAUL N. WHITE

June 24, 2011

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### D.A.R.E. Graduates 418 Students

The 2010/2011 Anderson County Sheriff's Department Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program finished its instruction at the end of the school year. A total of 418 5<sup>th</sup> graders in twenty-one different classrooms representing eight Anderson County elementary schools successfully completed the curriculum. Each student earned a certificate of completion and was awarded a special D.A.R.E. tee shirt as an award.



- Number of Schools - 8
- Number of Classrooms - 21
- Number of Students - 418

Over the program, these students learned the skills they need to avoid drugs, alcohol, and violence. The classes include extensive student participation on practical ways to resist pressure to experiment with drugs and alcohol. The D.A.R.E. curriculum also has lessons on how to resist and avoid bullying which is beneficial to both students and teachers.

The Anderson County D.A.R.E. program continues to focus on the gateway drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana and now includes a special emphasis on prescription drugs and over-the-counter medication abuse. The other focus of our program is how to deal with peer pressure, bullying, building positive self-esteem, good consequences, bad consequences, friendships, good choices, bad choices, consequences, building confidence and being a confident person, building positive relationships, respect for others and themselves, and staying out of risky situations. Each student received twelve core curriculum lessons and an average of three extra classroom lessons. The extra lessons and classroom visits focused largely on various issues and topics such as internet safety, texting, cell phones and other on-line computer activities, 911 addresses, school safety, and security.

Again this year, Chief Jim Shetterly and the Lake City Police Department bought tee shirts and D.A.R.E. Essay winner awards for Lake City, Dutch Valley, and Briceville elementary schools. The Anderson County Sheriff's Department D.A.R.E. Program also received donations from throughout the county, including area businesses, to help purchase student workbooks, tee shirts, and essay awards.

D.A.R.E. began in 1983 and is a collaborative program in which local law enforcement and local schools join together to educate students about the personal and social consequences of substance abuse and violence. It is taught in more than 75% of our nation's school districts and forty-three countries around the world by more than 50,000 local law enforcement officers certified to teach the D.A.R.E. program.

D.A.R.E. is reviewed annually by the D.A.R.E. Scientific Advisory Board, the D.A.R.E. America Law Enforcement Advisory Board, D.A.R.E. officers, school, and municipal administrators. Research findings and increased knowledge of effective anti-drug, anti-violence, and anti-substance abuse prevention is continually evaluated for incorporation into curricula.

The Anderson County Sheriff's Department is proud to partner with the Anderson County Schools and the Board of Education in providing these important lessons in resisting drugs and violence to our youth.

For more information on D.A.R.E. please visit [www.dare.com](http://www.dare.com).

**Deputy Mark Whaley**