



MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

ANDERSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

SHERIFF PAUL N. WHITE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

D.A.R.E. Graduates 430 Students

The 2008/2009 Anderson County Sheriff's Department Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program finished its instruction at the end of the school year. A total of 430 5th graders in twenty 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 - 20
- Number of Students - 430

Over the ten week 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 D.A.R.E. lessons focus on four major areas:

- Providing accurate information about alcohol and drugs,
- Teaching students decision making skills,
- Showing students how to resist peer pressure, and;
- Giving students ideas for alternatives to drug use and violence.

The D.A.R.E. program also taught the younger students in the K through 4th grades about dangerous situations such as dealing with strangers and unsafe conditions.

As part of the curriculum each student is required to write an essay expressing their thoughts about the D.A.R.E. Program and why they think it is important to be drug free and avoid violence. Twenty students, one from each classroom, were awarded special D.A.R.E. Ribbon Medallions for writing what was chosen as best classroom essay and eight students, one from each school, were chosen as Grand Prize Essay Winners for writing what was considered the best essay for their respective school. The Grand Prize winners were awarded a D.A.R.E. Ribbon Medallion and a D.A.R.E. duffle bag stuffed with different items that had been donated by area businesses.

Also, for the first time, the Sheriff' Department was able to award a special D.A.R.E. "Spirit" award to one student at each school that consistently displayed good behavior, helpfulness, friendship, maturity, responsibility, and good citizenship to other students and school staff. These award winners were chosen by the 5th grade teachers and were awarded a special backpack that was donated by the Tennessee Methamphetamine Task Force.

Again this year, the Lake City Police Department bought all the D.A.R.E. tee shirts and essay awards for the students and a special gift for each 5th grade teacher and principal at Lake City Elementary School as well as a special D.A.R.E. duffle bag for the Grand Prize Winner at Briceville Elementary School.

The Anderson County Sheriff's Department D.A.R.E. Program received donations from throughout the county to help purchase tee shirts and essay awards. Many businesses donated prizes to award the Grand Prize Essay winners at each school.

DARE began in 1983. It is taught in more than 300,000 classrooms in fifty states and fifty-three countries around the world. 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.

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