

## 2007 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Community Awareness Projects

April 22 - 28, 2007

*Victims' Rights: Every Victim. Every Time.*

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This is the third in a series of periodic messages to assist in the planning and implementation of NCVRW Community Awareness Projects. Please feel free to send your individual questions or requests for assistance to Anne Seymour at [annesey@atlantech.net](mailto:annesey@atlantech.net).

# CAP TIPS #3

*(To Improve Public awareness)*

by Anne Seymour

## National Crime Victims' Rights Week Activities for Children

### Introduction

Many Community Awareness Projects supported by OVC for 2007 include activities to engage and educate children (see [cap.navaa.org/recipients.html](http://cap.navaa.org/recipients.html) for overviews of all CAP activities). There are several benefits to including kids' activities in your events, including:

- Opportunities to actively engage children in activities that promote their awareness of personal and community safety issues.
- Outreach to parents/guardians who might otherwise not attend events that are adult-focused, to provide fun activities for their children.
- Establishing your community partnership and/or organization(s) as programs that are concerned about children's safety.
- Opportunities to partner during NCVRW (and throughout the year) with entities that work with children and teenagers, such as schools, youth centers, Boys and Girls Clubs, etc.

### Potential Partners for Kids' Activities

There are many individuals and entities in your community that are committed to child safety, crime prevention and victim assistance efforts. It's a good idea to conduct outreach to professionals and volunteers who can help support your NCVRW outreach activities for kids – many of them may have existing children's activities and resources that are already adapted for your community.

Possible partners include, but are not limited to:

- Pre-schools and day care centers.
- Elementary, middle and high schools.
- Juvenile court programs.
- Family court programs.
- Child Advocacy Centers.
- Boys and Girls Clubs.

- Youth and Teen Centers (including after-school programs).
- Youth art programs.
- Youth sports programs.
- Civic organizations that focus on youth-related volunteer activities.

### Great Resources for Children's Activities

The NAVAA CAP Project has identified a number of online resources that can help you develop or enhance your educational outreach and activities for children and teens during NCVRW and throughout the year. While many of these websites have resources that can be easily adapted to your specific community, they are all full of ideas that offer “food for thought” for your 2007 NCVRW activities.

- A web site sponsored by the Discovery Channel that allows you to customize ten different types of written games for kids, including word search puzzles, fallen phrases puzzles, and mazes, is available at: <http://www.puzzlemaker.com/> . It includes easily-accessible clipart to enhance your puzzles, as well as a “Users’ Guide.”
- The website of the National Crime Prevention Center (NCPC) features myriad educational and learning activities for kids that feature McGruff, the Crime Fighting Dog. This excellent website addresses topics such as:
  - School safety.
  - Staying home alone.
  - Cyberbullies.
  - What to do in an emergency.
  - How to stay safe online.

The website includes interactive games and activities that can be downloaded and/or easily adapted or replicated for NCVRW activities for kids: [www.mcgruff.org](http://www.mcgruff.org).

- The web site of the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch features a variety of activities for children that educate them about the justice process, including a “Kids Korner” brochure and many ideas about how to engage communities in child safety and child abuse prevention efforts. This site also includes on-line, reproducible coloring books that address “Learning About the Law” and “Learning About Judges.” The site can be accessed at: <http://www.jud.state.ct.us/external/kids/ColoringBook/default.htm>.
- The “Safety Theme Pre-school Activities and Crafts” website is designed for preschoolers and kindergarteners, and addresses a number of safety and crime prevention issues. It can be accessed at: <http://www.first-school.ws/theme/safety.htm>.
- A word puzzle (PDF format) that addresses “Making Safe or Dangerous Choices” for children is available at: [http://www.peacefulsolution.com/curriculum/children/Peaceful\\_Activities/Grade3/Puzzle-Making\\_Safe\\_Or\\_Dangerous\\_Choices\\_Word\\_Search.pdf](http://www.peacefulsolution.com/curriculum/children/Peaceful_Activities/Grade3/Puzzle-Making_Safe_Or_Dangerous_Choices_Word_Search.pdf).
- The “Celebrate Safety” curriculum is designed to be a four-day program taught in the classroom, and includes a Teacher/Facilitator Handbook, Program Guide, and learning activities (including a kids’ safety test and coloring book). The curriculum can be reviewed for creative ideas to promote NCVRW activities for children, and is available at: [http://www.healthyplace.com/Communities/Abuse/socum/education\\_prevention/ed\\_cs\\_index.htm](http://www.healthyplace.com/Communities/Abuse/socum/education_prevention/ed_cs_index.htm).
- Askacop.org is a web site full of free police and safety activity pages, including on-line and paper-based coloring books, puzzles and stories. It can be accessed at: <http://kids.askacop.org/coloringpages.html>.
- The Maryland Judiciary Kids Page is designed for elementary school-age children, and contains

lots of ideas for how to educate children about the court system, including a fun “word scramble.” It can be accessed at: <http://www.courts.state.md.us/kidspage/index.html>.

- The 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court of Illinois sponsors an on-line “Kids Korner” with great ideas about how to engage the community in supporting initiatives related to child victims and child safety. It also includes “On-line Projects for Kids,” such as “Learning About the Law” and “Learning About Judges” coloring books. You can access this website at: <http://www.19thcircuitcourt.state.il.us/kidskorn/kids.htm#projects>.

### **For More Information**

Please contact 2007 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week Community Awareness Project Consultant Anne Seymour via email at [annese@atlantech.net](mailto:annese@atlantech.net); or by telephone at 202.547.1732.