



CAP TIPs is 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

CAP TIP #5

To Improve Public Awareness

National Crime Victims' Rights Week Activities for Children

Introduction

National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) events are often very formal and solemn. Many attendees bring their children, who might find it challenging to participate in (sometimes lengthy) victim and public awareness activities that are geared toward adults. This includes children who might, themselves, be crime victims, survivors or witnesses.

It's a good idea to have special activities designed for children that are informative, engaging and ***FUN!***

Based upon recommendations from previous CAP participants, this year's program features resources for children's activities that are:

- Appropriate for children and young teens, ages 3 – 15
- Featured in English and Spanish
- Related to the 2017 NCVRW theme, focusing on *strength, resilience* and *justice*

Overview of Children's Activities

There are three documents associated with this CAP TIP that will help you sponsor fun and educational children's:

1. Activity Pages
2. Scavenger Hunt
3. Certificates of Appreciation

1. Activity Pages

The Children's Activity Pages are appropriate for kids and young teens ages 3 – 15 and can be printed as a booklet (with the enclosed cover page) or printed as individual activities. Each activity incorporates the 2017 NCVRW theme, emphasizing *strength, resilience* and *justice*.

There are 18 separate activities to choose from:

- Tic-Tac-Toe (1)
- Coloring pages (6 – with one page in English and Spanish versions)
- Connect-the-dots (1)
- Word search (3 – with one version for teens in Spanish)
- Building blocks (2)
- Mazes (3)
- Spot the difference (2)

2. Scavenger Hunt

The Scavenger Hunt features six unique “fill-in-the-blank” activities specific to the 2017 NCVRW theme and is appropriate for children ages 5 – 12. The six “hunt pages” are numbered from “1” to “6;” this children’s activity requires:

- Six “stations” around the venue where children can complete each activity page
- Signage or colorful balloons that indicate “Scavenger Hunt #1, Scavenger Hunt #2, etc. at each station
- Enough copies of each Scavenger Hunt activity page and pens/pencils to accommodate your expected number of children
- Volunteers to staff each station and one volunteer to serve as a “judge” at the final station

The final two stations involve a brief, facilitated discussion with the children about the words “resilience” and “justice,” so you’ll want to have a seasoned and friendly volunteer there!

Once children complete an activity, a volunteer can guide them to the next station (and make sure their completed activity page goes with them). When all six Scavenger Hunt Activities are completed, children can present them to a “judge” at the final station, who can staple the six pages together and give them a Certificate of Appreciation with their name on it (see below).

3. Certificates of Appreciation

Two “certificates of appreciation” for children who complete any/all of the activities you sponsor during NCVRW are included in this CAP TIP. Once they have completed the activities, ask them (or their parent/guardian) to write their name on a sticky note, and then write their name on the certificate of appreciation.

Make sure you print enough copies of the certificates to “reward” your child guests for their participation!

Other Ideas for Children’s Activities

“Get Your Art On!”

Some children – particularly younger ones – make want to do freelance drawing. It’s a good idea to have blank pieces of white paper, with crayons and colored felt pens/markers, to let them “get their art on” in whatever way their creativity flows. With permission from your event’s site sponsor, you can also have a “chalk station” out front of your venue where children can draw pictures and write their ideas about *strength, resilience and justice*.

Paper Chains

Another creative idea is to provide colored paper or constructions paper cut into strips so that children



can collectively contribute to a paper chain. You can leave the strips blank for children to create their own artwork, or imprint the three themes onto 8 ½” by 11” colored paper prior to cutting them into strips, using different color paper reflected in the 2017 NCVRW theme artwork; for example:

BLUE PAPER
STRENGTH
STRENGTH
STRENGTH

WHITE PAPER
RESILIENCE
RESILIENCE
RESILIENCE

RED PAPER
JUSTICE
JUSTICE
JUSTICE

Once you have a couple dozen strips created, a volunteer can help children staple or tape them into a paper chain, which can be hung as a theme decoration!

Create a Children’s Activities Area

It’s a good idea to have a designated “children’s activities/ actividades para los ninos” area at your event to make it easy to recognize for parents and guardians, and easy to supervise for volunteers.

You can plan your children’s activities area based upon your expected number of child and teenage participants, and consider the following options to make it look really *fun*:

- Signage that indicates “children’s activities/ actividades para los ninos” section of the venue (you can use theme artwork from the NCVRW Resource Guide and theme colors) in English and Spanish (and any other languages relevant to your community)
- Tables with tablecloths and floor mats in the NCVRW theme colors
- Chairs (many parents/guardians will want to stay with their children, so plan for plenty of folding chairs)
- Helium-filled balloons in the NCVRW theme colors
- Activities and supplies in brightly colored bins on the tables

Supplies Needed for Children’s Activities

Depending on the activities you sponsor, you will need:

- Nametags for volunteers and participants
- Plastic tablecloths (in NCVRW theme colors)
- Floor mats (for younger children)
- Small tabletop bins for supplies and activities/papers
- Crayons
- Chalk
- Colored felt pens/markers
- Pens/pencils (you can have these imprinted with the 2017 NCVRW theme or your organization’s information)
- Blank paper (for children who simply want to draw)
- Stapler with extra staples
- Tape
- Sticky notes
- Balloons or signage (or other items that identify “stations” for the scavenger hunt)
- Full helium tank
- Juice boxes, waters and age-appropriate snacks
- Rolls of paper towels (for cleanup)

Seeking Volunteers to Supervise Children’s Activities

Since these CAP activities involve children and young teens, it’s *imperative* that you use only trusted

volunteers who have been previously screened and approved by your organization or agency; or volunteers who agree to submit to a background check (which can be facilitated by your local law enforcement agency).

Once you have estimated the number of children who will attend your event, it's a good idea to plan for a ratio of *one volunteer to four children*, and have a member of your staff or Planning Committee available to provide overall supervision.

There are many good opportunities to find trustworthy volunteers for these fun activities, including:

- Volunteers from allied professional agencies, such as law enforcement, probation and parole agencies
- High school seniors who have community service hours to fulfill
- Eagle Scouts
- Students at colleges or universities, such as:
 - Fraternities and Sororities
 - Student clubs
 - Specific academic Departments, such as child development, victimology, criminal justice or social work
- Neighborhood Watch or other community associations
- Civic organizations (such as Rotary or Junior League)

The following language can be easily adapted to your special event and disseminated via your website, email, listservs, social media venues or even as a public service announcement to solicit volunteers:

(Your organization/group) is sponsoring (describe special event) to commemorate 2017 National Crime Victims' Rights Week on (day/date/time) at (location). We are seeking volunteers to supervise children's activities designed to reflect the NCVRW theme, "Strength. Resilience. Justice."

Volunteers will help children complete activities including *activity/coloring pages/a scavenger hunt*, and will be needed from *(time to time – leaving 30 minutes on each end for setup and cleanup)*. All new volunteers will be required to submit to a background check.

If you or your organization/agency are interested in volunteering and supporting our 2017 National Crime Victims' Rights Week activities, please contact *(name)* at *(area code/telephone number)* or *(email address)*.

Special Thanks

NAVAA would like to thank Christopher Hutson of Hutsonian.com for his graphic designs of all children's activities.

For More Information

Please contact National Crime Victims' Rights Week Community Awareness Project Consultant Anne Seymour via email at annese@atlantech.net; or by telephone at 202.547.1732.