



Dear Coordinated School Health, Community Grantees, Schools, Churches, & Friends of Tobacco Prevention and Control, (That work with youth)

I'm delighted that you are visiting our site and hope that we are able to answer your questions. As you may have already browsed our site, I won't try to highlight all the wonderful things the youth are doing in the state of Arkansas. In fact, I'm sure you have youth that you are working with and we certainly hope that your youth are connected on the state level.

I've received numerous questions regarding YES Teams and how to form one. This is an easy question to answer. In order to have a recognized YES Team and work under that name a YOUTH leader selected from your area that has applied and been accepted to the statewide **Tobacco Control Youth Board** must be LEADING the team.

Adults cannot and certainly SHOULD NOT claim to have a YES Team when they do not have a youth leader from the Tobacco Control Youth Board. We've noticed and we've heard that there are YES Teams out there, but honestly, we don't acknowledge YES Teams, unless they follow the Youth-led policies that the **YOUTH** themselves put in place. ***Yep, that's right, the youth actually make the rules...and it is up to us, as adults, to live by them.***

So, how does this work? I thought anyone could be on the YES Team.

Yes, anyone can be a YES Team member, *but only TCYB members can lead an official team in your area, school, community, and or county.* We'd love to welcome you into the YLI: YES Team family, but we can't do so, if we don't know who you are.

YES Team members have ONE pledge and ONE responsibility--to be TOBACCO FREE! While

Tobacco Control Youth Board Members are responsible for the development and implementation of the grassroots program. YES meant as a program to reach out and save a life by sharing the message that, "When you say NO to tobacco, you say YES to life."

Here is the cool thing. If you already have an existing youth group--YOU DON'T have to change your name. You can just put the tag YES Team on the end of it-- but you do need to have a TCYB member in charge and leading the way.

TCYB members receive daily updates, training, information, and any call to action that might be on the table. They participate on conference calls, email chats, and work collectively to establish the rules of the Youth Leadership Program. They are eligible for stipends, travel opportunities, and present at numerous events across the state, region and country. Why wouldn't you want your 7th-11th grade leader on the statewide board? I'm clueless!

Well, if I haven't answered the main question about YES Teams and the TCYB, please be our guest and download the Lil A hand guide below and the YLI brochure. I hope that this will shed more light on what the YOUTH are doing in the state and their overall structure.

Please, we beg thee--join in on the fun and let's make sure that ARKANSAS is represented the correct way--don't just claim a YES Team--have a Tobacco Control Youth Board member leading the way!!!!!!!!!!

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Statewide Youth Leadership Initiative Program

Tobacco Control Youth Board

Y.E.S. Team

Team YES Speaks