

Youth Advisory Council

WHAT IS CODA?

Incorporated in 1969, The Council on Drug Abuse (CODA) is a charitable, non-profit organization that delivers preventive drug abuse education programs. CODA's mission is to prevent and reduce drug abuse through education impacting youth, teachers, parents and other adults impacting youth.

WHAT IS YAC?

The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is a group of Canadian high school students from cities across Canada who share a passion to reduce and prevent substance abuse in their schools, communities and among their friends.

YACers are a group of student leaders from each and every administrative region across

Canada who interact, engage and connect with each other to prevent youth substance abuse in Canada. YAC student representatives will be twinned with regional CODA Educators in an effort to bridge the gap between youth and adults who share the goal of wanting to reduce substance abuse and work toward the betterment of their respected communities.

In November of 2009 CODA will launch its ONTARIO YAC. There will be 16 regional YACs, one for every administrative region in Ontario, who will work closely with peers and other YAC members to make a difference in their communities. All high school students are invited and encouraged to apply for this experience of a lifetime.



WHAT IS THE ANNUAL NATIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL CONFERENCE?

In celebration of National Addiction Awareness Week during the third week of November, all YACers from across Canada will come together for the first annual YAC conference in Toronto.

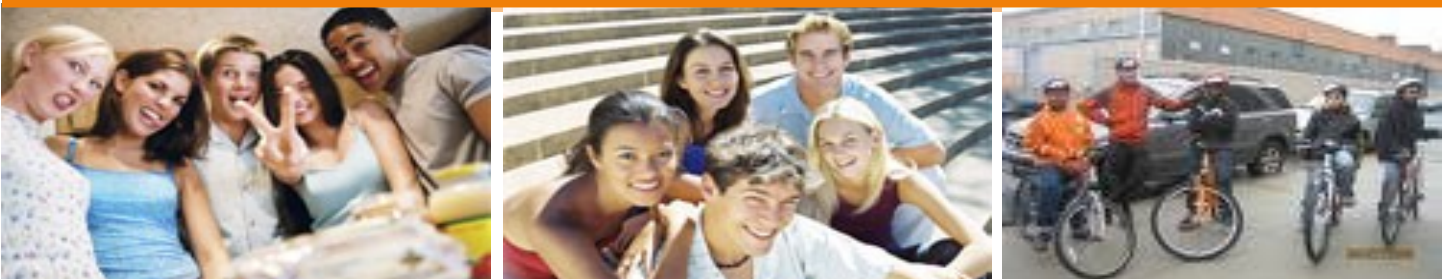
At this 1 day conference you will meet all other YACers, share experiences, and learn from each other about youth drug abuse and what you can do to help prevent it in your communities. YACers will engage in workshops and seminars to improve networking, community outreach, event planning, and campaigning skills. You will work closely with other YACers to advise CODA on how to improve and implement programs to most efficiently and effectively reach and communicate with youth in all regions across Canada. Not only will you participate in the

WHY BECOME A YACer?

Not only is this an experience of a lifetime, but it is also a chance to meet and make new friends with youth from all over Canada who care to prevent drug abuse as much as you do. The YAC is also a fun, exciting and cool way to learn and practice new skills like:

- **Volunteer Hour Accumulation**
- **Leadership**
- **Communication**
- **Organization**
- **Networking**
- **Knowledge of drug abuse prevention**
- **Working on national campaigns & initiatives**
- **Fundraising**
- **Event planning**
- **Presenting to an audience**
- **How to be a representative**
- **Teamwork and collaboration**
- **Making an impact in your community**
- **Time management**
- **Mentoring**

Most importantly, being part of the YAC goes beyond making a difference... by being the difference.



I WANT TO BE A YACer.....WHAT DO I DO?

To join the CODA YAC you must be entering Grades 9, 10, 11 or 12 in September of 2009. You must first submit an application package. This application package includes:

- CODA YAC Application forms
- One (1) reference letter (teacher, sports coach, school principal, guidance councilor, etc.)
- Parental Consent form (for youth under 18 years of age)

There is NO APPLICATION FEE. Simply fill out the form, include the required materials and send in your application to:

111 Peter Street, Suite# 505
Toronto, ONTARIO M5V 2H1

Or by email to YAC@drugabuse.ca

Good luck!

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conference and generate personal goals on how to make a difference in your community, but your feedback and ideas will be used by CODA to tailor our programs and help achieve our goal of reducing substance abuse in Canada. At the end of the conference all of your hard work will be compiled and published.

Another important part of the conference is the planning for next year's activities. YACers will work together to decide on what the Youth Advisory Council's short-term goals are for the next year and also choose the next major event.



**“YACers know
what’s happening in
their communities
better than anyone
else.”**

***That’s why CODA
wants to work with
you.***

WHAT DO YACers DO?

There are two ways that you can get involved in the YAC:

- You can apply to be the **AMBASSADOR** of your School YAC (1 per school) or a YAC **MEMBER**.
- **AMBASSADOR of School YAC’s roles and responsibilities include:**
 - Coordinate the successful and smooth functioning of your school YAC
 - Automatic enrollment in your Regional Youth Advisory Council
 - Participate in monthly meetings of your Regional YAC (web based or in person)
 - Supervise and plan YAC activities in your school and region
 - You are a YAC spokesperson of your school and region
 - Write a monthly newsletter article on the activities and efforts of your council
 - Contribute to YAC website material
 - You are the main CODA representative of your School YAC Members
 - You are the main representative of your School YAC Members to CODA
 - Attend the Annual YAC Conference (1 day conference hosted in Toronto. Attendance is subsidized and may require overnight stay)
- **YAC MEMBER roles and responsibilities include:**
 - Represent your school and community on your School YAC
 - Actively participate in YAC activities in your school and region (including fundraising events, campaigns and awareness raising activities)
 - Attend monthly YAC meetings (web-based or physical)
 - You will be invited to attend the Annual YAC Conference (one day conference hosted in Toronto. Depending on your home location, you may need to stay in Toronto overnight. Attendance is voluntary and *may* be subsidized)
 - Advise CODA on issues of drug abuse prevention as they relate to your school and region
 - Advise CODA on how relevant CODA programs are in your community

Above all, you are expected to HAVE FUN!

Beyond Making a Difference..

...They're Being the Difference



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