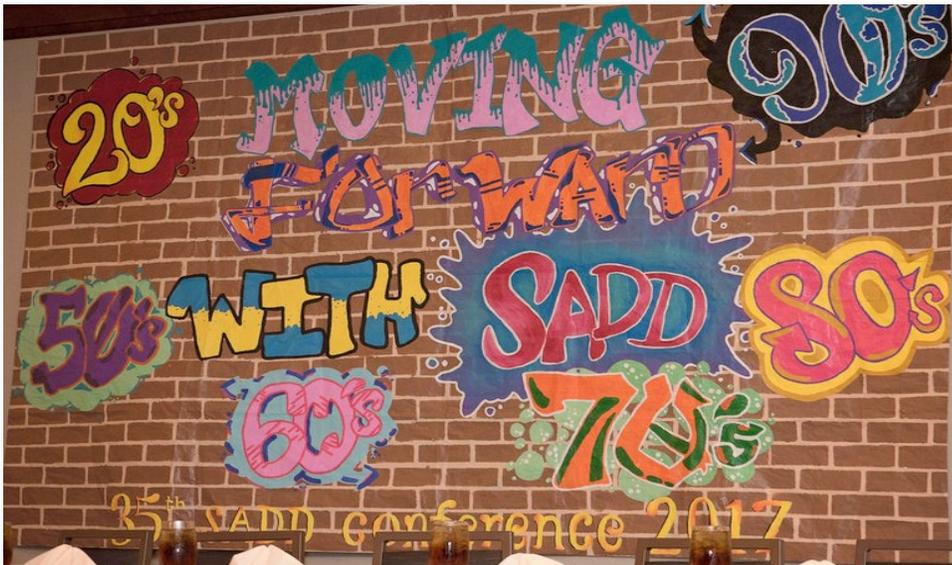


Connect



35th ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE RECAP

Students from across the state gave a “Blast to the Past” as North Carolina celebrated 35 years of working to empower youth to make better decisions about the important issues in their lives. Two hundred students and advisors participated in the “Moving Forward with SADD” Leadership Conference at a weekend retreat of training, networking and fun in Raleigh, November 17-19, 2017. The Student Advisory Board hosted the conference and led the student groups.

The **West Johnston High School Art Club** created and donated the remarkable artwork for the conference again this year (*photo above*). Thanks, West J. Power to the Wildcats!

We were honored to have **Rick Birt**, Acting Chief Executive Officer of SADD, **Dylan Mullins**, national Student of the Year, and **Kylie Gilmore**, former national Student of the Year, participate in our conference for

the entire weekend. They all conducted workshops.

The opening session began Friday evening after a delicious meal of pizza, wings and brownies. The Council for Women and Youth Involvement Executive Director

Mary Williams-Stover enthusiastically welcomed the chapters and commended them for their commitment and their efforts to create safer schools and communities.



Mary Williams-Stover



National Student of the Year Dylan Mullins addresses the conference.

October-December 2017
Issue 38

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Chapter Registration
Chapter of the Year Activities
New Programming Calendar

Ideas? Questions? Concerns?

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Council for Women & Youth Involvement
Department of Administration

During the roll call and shout out, each chapter gave their heartiest rendition of their chapter or school cheer. Schools participating in the conference were Cape Fear High, Fayetteville; First Flight High, Kill Devil Hills; Hillside High, Durham; JP Knapp Early College High, Currituck; Manteo High, Manteo; Person County Learning Academy, Person High and Roxboro Community School, Roxboro; South Johnston High, Four Oaks; Southwest High, Jacksonville; Weldon High and Weldon Middle, Weldon; West Iredell High, Statesville; and West Johnston High. Community chapters attending were Girls for Empowerment, Elizabeth City; Pitt County SADD, and Warren County Schools. Relationship violence prevention organization Activist in Action, recovering substance user Ethan Buck, and program developer and counselor Frank Alford comprised “The Victors” panel. The panelist discussed opioid abuse and recovery, safe dating, making good decisions, and overcoming obstacles.



Sgt. Mobley, (back row, 3rd from left) with students

the decades of the 20s, 50s, 70s, 80s and 90s. The advisors were the 60s. Everyone had specially designed shirts denoting their decade, and each decade attended workshops together throughout the day. Student workshops were presented on highway safety, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, bullying, and leadership development. Advisor workshops dealt with the role of the advisor, fundraising, challenges, and other issues.



The Victors panel (L-R) Nikki Locklear, Laura May
Ethan Buck and Frank Alford

The “F.R.I.E.N.D.S.” activity session provided an opportunity for the students to team build through games and friendly competitions.

Everyone was up bright and early Saturday morning for a hot breakfast and a traffic safety presentation by **1st Sgt. Derek Mobley** of the NC State Highway Patrol. Sgt. Mobley spoke about highway safety from the point of view of law enforcement, the teenager, and the parent.

After the morning assembly, everyone headed to their workshops. The students were in groups representing



Annette Carrington Johnson of the Durham County Health Department conducts the teen pregnancy prevention workshop.

The luncheon presenter was **Darryl Rodgers** (pictured right) of Cary, NC. He spoke about the recent loss of his son to drugs and a traffic crash. Rodgers told the students that they are superheroes with four super powers; the Power of Choice, the Power of Association, the Power to Intervene, and the Power to Love.



After free time, everyone dressed in their finest and assembled in the ballroom for the Saturday Evening Banquet. **Summer Lanier** of West Johnston High School beautifully sang the national anthem, and **Cassidy Dellinger**, also of West Johnston, played an outstanding saxophone solo during the Candlelight Memorial Ceremony. This observance is held in memory of young people who have lost their lives because of destructive decisions.



Candlelight Memorial

We were honored to have remarks from Christy Agner, Deputy Secretary of the NC Department of Administration, and Mark Ezzell, Director of the Governor's Highway Safety Program in the NC Department of Transportation.



Rick Birt interacts with a student

High energy Rick Birt, banquet keynote speaker, got the students up and involved in his presentation. He demonstrated the difference in being heard when one student speaks out alone compared to students speaking out together.

The advisors represented the 60s, and during the advisor appreciation segment of the program, they danced the twist to Chubby Checker's *Let's do the Twist*. This elicited laughter, cheers and applause from the students.

Shelby Williams received special recognition for her years of leadership at Person High School in Roxboro. She transferred to Person Learning Academy this year, but she made sure she recruited a new advisor before she left. Williams is now working to establish a SADD chapter at her new school.



Shelby Williams



Deputy Secretary Christy Agner tells the students about her involvement in SADD as a high school student.



Governor's Highway Safety Program Director Mark Ezzell speaks to the students about making smart decisions when driving.

Cherish Matson, second term Student Advisory Board member and senior at **Southwest High School**, received the Student of the Year Award. She was nominated because of her leadership, helpfulness, and commitment to her chapter, school, and community. She shared her feelings about winning the award:



Cherish Matson receives Student of the Year Award from state coordinator Harriett Southerland and Rick Birt.

“It is a tremendous honor to be North Carolina’s SADD Student of the Year. I hold this honor close to my heart as it symbolizes the impact that I have had on my peers and the community. SADD isn’t just a club. It’s a community with the intention to educate and empower youth to lead healthy and safe lives. Being involved in SADD has changed my life by bringing me out of my comfort zone and giving me the tools necessary to influence those around me in a positive manner. I am forever grateful for the people that I have met and all that I have learned thanks to my time in SADD. I sincerely hope that my fellow students are impacted by SADD in the way that I was. Passion is what drives this organization. We as students have the passion to positively influence youth to make sound decisions, and we will not waiver in our efforts. I would also like to thank all SADD advisors for taking the time out of their busy lives and working so hard to help us. You are the backbone of our chapters and your hard work will pay off.”

Cherish is the daughter of Lisa Hamrick and Robert Matson. Her chapter advisor is **Diane Dail**.



Amanda Fisher receives the Advisor of the Year Award.

Amanda Fisher, SADD advisor at West Johnston High School in Benson, was named Advisor of the Year. This is the second time she received this honor, a first for any advisor. “Fish,” as her students call her, is a passionate, committed advisor who supports her members in all their activities, not just those that are SADD related. She even attends their sports events, theatre projects, and more.

Fisher shared these remarks after receiving the award: *“I am truly honored to win this award for the second time. I love my students, and I try to put 100% effort into all of the activities that the students would like to do at the school. I believe in SADD and what it stands for. I am very passionate about speaking with students about making good decisions and living a better life. Thank you for this award, I know there are other advisors that do just as much as I do, and put in the effort to make their schools and communities better places.”*

In addition to teaching business at West Johnston and advising the SADD chapter, Fisher advises FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) and JoCo Teen Drivers. She is also the ladies tennis coach and the Mr. West J Pageant director.

Congratulations to Amanda Fisher on her accomplishment. SADD is grateful for her service.



Left to Right: Jake Flynn, Romario Crisanto, Josh Harlow and Greyson Betz of West Johnston High School proudly display their Chapter of the Year Award.

West Johnston High School received the Chapter of the Year Award for the third consecutive year. This award is given to the chapter that works hard to make sure their chapter is effective by engaging in prevention or youth empowerment activities and projects throughout the year. Advisor Fisher explained why the chapter continues to be recognized:

“Our chapter works to do at least two activities a month to promote good decisions in the school and in the community. Everyone has always told me that a great club cannot thrive without a good advisor, but I believe that a club cannot thrive without passionate and committed students, and that’s what we have at West Johnston. I am so proud of them and feel that they have worked hard this year and deserve the Chapter of the Year Award for the third year in a row.”

See pages 8-10 for the entry that garnered the Chapter of the Year Award for West Johnston.



Nancy Richardson receives the Outstanding Contribution Award.

Nancy Richardson received the Outstanding Contribution Award for her continued dedication and service to the NC SADD program. Richardson retired five years ago, but she has returned every year since to help with the conference. When asked why she does it, she said, “SADD is a great program, and if there is anything I can do to support the students, I don’t mind doing it.”



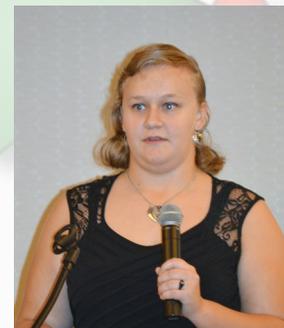
Closing out the night at the Disco Dance

At the closing session Sunday morning, Rosalyn Wilkinson, outgoing Student of the Year, gave the keynote address. She told the students that working together, “We can do anything we put our minds to.” She

charged them to make their chapters something that they, their schools, and “we as a SADD nation can be proud of.”

Three of our key advisors will retire at the end of this school year: **Mark McKay** of Manteo High School, **Billy Essick** of First Flight High School, and **Diane Dail** of Southwest High School. The advisors each spoke about their time in SADD and the importance of the students taking the reins in putting on projects and activities, no matter who their new advisor is. These are three of our most dedicated advisors, and they will be sorely missed.

The final segment of the Sunday morning session featured prize drawings and a “dance off” to audience cheers. The 35th NC SADD Leadership Conference was a tremendous success. Everyone said they’d had a lot of fun and learned a lot to take back to their schools to strengthen their chapters. To see photos of the conference, [click here](#).



Rosalyn Wilkinson

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS



SADD club members (right) Sharon Ayala, Rosa Garcia, Kathy Davis, and Genesis Gregory instruct students on how to play the game.

Manteo High School SADD staged a Great American Smokeout activity called “Blow Bubbles Not Smoke” outside the lunch room. Students competed against a friend or teacher to see who could blow the biggest soap bubble. Each winner received a prize. The members also distributed pamphlets on the dangers of smoking, vaping, and smokeless tobacco. Students who visited the SADD table were also able to see the “Death of a Lung” display that showed a healthy lung, a lung with emphysema, and a lung with cancer caused by smoking.

Even the principal and vice principal participated, competing against each other. The students made the diplomatic decision to declare the administrators' bubbles a tie, and awarded them each a prize. We thank Mr. Luciano and Ms. Hudspeth for their continued support of the Manteo SADD program. **Go 'Skins!**



Kathy Davis and Genesis Gregory are at the ready as student Dalton Gibbs holds a replica of a black colored lung diseased from smoking.

good time without using stimulants or making other bad decisions. Advisor Amanda Fisher said, "We reserved lanes at our local bowling alley and promoted the event at school. We opened it up to SADD members, but asked everyone to bring a friend who was not a part of SADD to see if they would be interested in joining. We usually bowl two or three games against each other on multiple lanes. We had over 25 members and friends come and bowl from 7:00pm to 10:00pm. Our very own Nich Wilson, who serves on the Student Advisory Board, beat everyone with a score of 158!"

What a great way to team build and get new members! **Go Wildcats!**

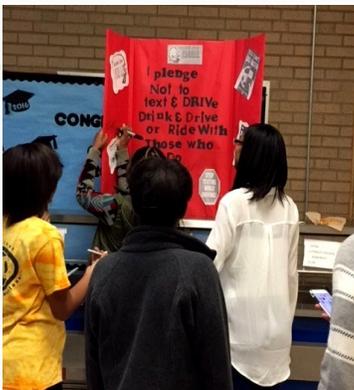


West J SADD having fun at the lanes



Cape Fear High School (Fayetteville) set up a safe driving awareness booth at their home games to bring awareness to distracted and impaired driving. Advisor Kety Clark said, "The SADD members encouraged attendants to make the pledge and sign our petition to not text while driving, drink and drive, or ride with those who do. We had about 100 students make the pledge!" Great project Cape Fear.

Go Colts!



(Top) Cape Fear SADD Pledge Booth
(Bottom) A student makes a pledge.

SADD MEMBER SUITED FOR THE OCCASION

When SAB member **Rosalyn Wilkinson** of West Iredell High School reported for work at her new job recently, she learned that the person who was supposed to play Santa couldn't come to work. "I'll do it," she volunteered. Dressed in a Santa suit, Rosalyn gave out candy at K-Mart all day. When asked how it went, she replied, "It was a long day, and the suit was hot, but I managed to stay cheerful."



Rosalyn Wilkinson as Santa

Ho! Ho! Ho! to you Rosalyn, for being an example of the way SADD students pitch in when needed.



West Johnston High School held a SADD Club Bowling Night for the chapter members. The chapter plans fun events to show that teens can hang out and have a



We are excited to have two new schools join our NC SADD family.



Janet Hawley and **Rachelle Baptist** are the advisors of **Hillside High School** SADD in Durham (Durham County). Although Hillside's chapter just got up and running this term, they attended the state conference last month. Kudos to Hawley and Baptist for making the effort to get their chapter started off on a solid footing. **Go Hornets!** Advisors, please make the effort to reach out to these new advisors and offer your assistance. We all know what it's like to be newbies. Their email addresses are:

janet.hawley@hillsidehornets.net and raychelle.baptist@hillsidehornets.net.



Jones Middle School in Trenton (Jones County) has established a chapter under the leadership of **Dr. Grace Simmons**. As a counselor, Dr. Simmons has first-hand

knowledge of serious issues plaguing middle school students, and she turned to SADD as a hopeful remedy. **Go Knights!** Please offer your support to her at grace.simmons@jonesnc.net.

LAW AIMS TO PREVENT DRUG FATALITIES

Many deaths from drug overdose could be prevented if those witnessing the overdose were not afraid to call 911. A primary reason for this fear is that police often accompany emergency responders, looking to arrest drug users at the scene. If the overdose results in a fatality, police officers have sometimes arrested the callers and charged them with murder or manslaughter. Fearing arrest, many witnesses will attempt to resuscitate on their own, or they feel forced to abandon the victim. The **911 Good Samaritan Law** states that a person who overdoses or a person who witnesses an overdose and seeks help for the victim can not be prosecuted for possession of small amounts of drugs, drug paraphernalia, or underage drinking. The purpose of the law is to remove the fear of criminal repercussions for calling 911 to report an overdose, and to focus efforts on getting help to the victim. The victim is

also protected from arrest. The caller must provide their name to 911 or law enforcement to qualify for the immunity.

This immunity, however, apparently does not apply to traffic crashes where teens who have been drinking abandon a seriously injured friend because they are afraid of the repercussions of calling for help. Even so, the police say that leaving the scene without calling for help is an additional serious offense.

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR CHAPTER

Thanks to all who have registered their chapters for this school year. If you haven't yet, it is most important that you do. You can register at:

<http://sadd.force.com/registration>. If you have any problems registering, contact the state coordinator at hsoutherland@ncsadd.org.

OUR SHINING STARS

High fives all around to the Student Advisory Board. Thanks guys, for the excellent, tireless, creative and hardworking job you did to make the 2017 SADD conference a success. The Council for Women and Youth Involvement, your chapters, and your schools are proud of each of you.



Top Row L-R:
Ja'Kayla Betts, Person High; Grayson Betz, West Johnston High; Landry Connors, West Johnston High

Second Row, L-R:
Aryana Daye, Person High; Cherish Matson, Southwest High; Davian Street, Person High (*Bottom Row, L-R*) Rosalyn Wilkinson, West Iredell High; Nicholas Wilson, West Johnston High



WEST JOHNSTON HIGH SCHOOL'S CHAPTER OF THE YEAR ENTRY

Seat Belt checks, November 22, 2016 and April 7, 2017. Set up at our only entrance and counted how many teens were not wearing their seatbelt and on their phone.

SADD Community Service, December 3, 2016

Took multiple members to the Raleigh Food Bank and helped to pack food and make sure it was safe to redistribute to smaller food pantries.

Smithfield Christmas Parade, December 8, 2016

Created a Teen Safe Driving Float for the Parade and dressed in holiday wear to pass out goodies while walking in the parade! The theme this year was "Even Santa Wears His Seatbelt".

SADD Bowling night, December 22, 2016

Planned a fun activity for the SADD club to show that you can have fun without drugs and alcohol.

SADD Raffle, February 3, 2017

Raffled off a gas card to all that answered safety questions correctly at the basketball game at half time.

Mr. West J Pageant, February 17, 2017

Held a pageant that focused on teen safe driving and good decisions, and represented the clubs throughout the pageant and set up booths in the lobby. We had a Drunk Driving Corn Hole game set up, and we had a trivia game during the pageant that asked teen safe driving questions.

Joco Teen Driving Luncheon, March 13, 2017

Met with all 12 high schools in Johnston County to talk about best practices. We also had speakers come and speak about teen safe driving practices. We also had to make a centerpiece that represented our school.

SADD speaks at the Board of Education Meeting, March 14, 2017

Two SADD members spoke to the Board of Education members to let them know what our school is doing, invite them to our events, and to thank them for their support.

Adventure Landing Outing, March 18, 2017

Planned a SADD Club Day at Adventure Landing in Raleigh. They got to Laser Tag, Go Cart, and Mini Golf. Planned a fun activity for the SADD Club to show that you can have fun without drugs and alcohol.

Lifesavers Conference, March 25-28, 2017

The Lifesavers Conference brings together a unique combination of public health and safety professionals, researchers, advocates, practitioners and students committed to sharing best practices, research, and policy initiatives that are proven to work. We also met up with the SADD National team.

Talk it Out Campaign at West Johnston, March 29, 2017

We had Josh and Peggy Bennett come to West Johnston with the Talk it out Campaign. They spoke to our juniors and seniors about the dangers of drinking and driving.



Spoke to the County Commissioners, April 3, 2017

The Johnston County Commissioners fund a lot of projects that the county's SADD chapters and Joco Teen Drivers do throughout the county. Gavin Brundidge went to the meeting to thank the commissioners and let them know what our chapter has been doing and to invite them to our future events.

Carowinds, April 21, 2017

Scheduled a trip to Carowinds for the active SADD members. We attended a two-hour leadership workshop, after which we were allowed to ride the rides. This gave the students an opportunity to further their leadership skills. It also showed them that they can have fun without drugs or alcohol.

Strawberry Festival Booth, April 22, 2017

Set up a booth to promote teen safe driving, and walked around the festival wearing wooden cars and passing out candy with safety messages. Promoted not drinking and driving by using corn hole boards and different variants of vision impaired goggles.

Mock Car Crash, April 27, 2017

West Johnston Joco teen drivers held its 2017 Prom Mock Car Crash. The JOCO Members, the HWY 50-210 Fire Department, and 50-2010 EMS helped us to recreate a real wreck to let the students of West Johnston see what really happens when they get into a fatal wreck. All the students were taken to the auditorium and we had a speaker talk about her own experiences with drinking and driving.

Purple Stride 5K, April 29, 2017

Walked and ran a 5k to support two of our SADD members who lost their father to pancreatic cancer.

Teacher Appreciation Baskets, May 3, 2017

SADD appreciates the teachers at West Johnston for promoting good decisions. The members created two huge baskets with different Post It notes, pens, gift cards, gum, and other items. They drew the winning teachers' names and presented each of them with a basket.

Glow Party Dance, May 12, 2017

Helped the basketball team with their dance fundraiser. The SADD members helped work the dance. This was an opportunity to spread the word about good decisions and show that you can have fun without being under the influence of anything. We handed out info about teen safe driving to let them know to drive safely home.

Toy Drive for Duke Children's Hospital, May 12-19, 2017

Helped Mr. and Ms. West J collect toys, coloring books, crayons, and headphones for the Duke Children's Hospital.

Interview by DPI, May 18, 2017

A Department of Public Instruction representative came to West Johnston to interview us about our teen safe driving program. The teens are going to be used in a class video from DPI. The NC Center for Safer Schools is putting together a module about teen brain development that will be distributed to teachers and parents across the state. Our JoCo Teen Drivers were interviewed on the section that will be included for distracted driving.

SADD Senior Lunch, May 20, 2017

All the active SADD seniors were invited to a lunch in their honor. Graduation cords and gifts were given to each senior.

Johnston County Best Teen Safe Driving Practice Award, May 25, 2017

We won the Johnston County Teen Drivers best practice award for our Grim Reaper Day submission. EMS, fire, and police personnel across the state judged 12 different schools, and West Johnston won. This is our third win in a row! We won \$500 dollars for the SADD Club.

Freshman Orientation, August 17, 2017.

SADD members promoted the club to the freshmen at orientation. We had people sign up if they were interested. We also put a SADD member in the FCCLA Fashion show at Freshman Orientation.

Promoted safe driving at football game, August 25, 2017.

Students sold T-shirts to raise money for our annual catered dinner for our local 50-210 fire and EMS departments. They also had corn hole set up with our vision impaired goggles. (It was a Hawaiian out!)

Presented at a Johnston County workshop on teen driving, September 17, 2017

Promoted our Grim Reaper Day with a How-To guide on staging a Grim Reaper Day at their schools.

Mule Days Parade, September 23, 2017

Our Mr. West J 2017 represented SADD and the JOCO Teen Driving Club in the 2017 Mule Days Parade.

SADD Good Decisions Poster Contest, September 29, 2017.

Asked the whole school to submit "Good Decisions" posters to put up around the school. The top three winners were chosen and received Bojangles gift cards.

Homecoming Pep Rally, October 6, 2017

Had students answer safe driving questions in order to win T-shirts. Had a vision impaired relay race with different students from different grade levels.

Helped with the Safety City exhibit at the NC State Fair, October 13, 2017.

Held Grim Reaper Day, October 26, 2017

Red Ribbon Week, October 23-26, 2016.

Drug-Free! Campaign: The 2017 Red Ribbon Theme: Your Future is Key, So Stay Drug Free.

Twitter Campaign – Take a picture with your red ribbon or if you are wearing red to stay drug free. Use the Hashtag #adrugfreewestj.

Red Ribbon Spirit Week: Wear Red Day, Put A Cap On Drugs (Hat Day), Sock it to Drugs Day, Shade Out Drugs Day (Wear Sunglasses)

North Carolina High School Athletic Assn. Click It or Ticket Video PSA Contest, October 30, 2017

Submitted a 30-second video Public Service Announcement to win the NCHSAA Click It or Ticket Contest!

Adopt-A-Cop Womanless Beauty Pageant, November 11, 2017.

Students helped with the annual Smithfield Police Department's Womanless Beauty Pageant. It is held to raise money for the Smithfield Adopt-A-Cop program that gives gifts to every officer in Johnston County to show our appreciation.



...and a
Happy New Year!

2017-18 COMMUNICATIONS CALENDAR

August 2017

Back to School ♦ Annual Chapter Registration & Renewal Online

September 2017

10-16 National Suicide Prevention Week

October 2017

- 1 NRSF Driving 101 Contest Opens
- 15 - 21 National Teen Driver Safety Week
- 15 - 21 Rock the Belt
- 23 - 31 Red Ribbon Week
- 27 SADD SPEAKS Applications Due

November 2017

Wipe Out Smoking Month

- 10 EndDD PSA and Meme Contest Opens
- 16 Great American Smokeout
- 21 SPEAKS Class of 2018 Announced

December 2017

3D Prevention Month

January 2018

- 12 NRSF Driving 101 Contest Deadline
- 15 - 20 No Name Calling Week
- 22 - 28 National Drug & Alcohol Facts Week

February 2018

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

- 5 - 9 SADD Shines Week
- 12 EndDD PSA and Meme Contest Deadline
- 2/26 - 3/4 National Eating Disorder Awareness Week

March 2018

- TBD SADD SPEAKS
- 18 - 24 National Inhalants & Poison Awareness Week
- 19 - 23 National Youth Violence Prevention Week
- 21 National Kick Butts Day

April 2018

Alcohol Awareness Month ♦ Distracted Driving Awareness Month

- 16 Is It Worth the Risk? SADD Strong

May 2018

Global Youth Traffic Safety Month ♦ Mental Health Awareness Month
National Click It or Ticket Mobilization

- 13 - 19 National Prevention Week
- 14 - 18 Rock the Belt - SADD Strong
- 28 Memorial Day - Start of "100 Deadliest Days"

June 2018

National Safety Month ♦ National Click It or Ticket Mobilization

- 24 - 27 SADD National Conference

