



Suggestions for New SADD Chapters (and reminders for existing ones)

Do awareness projects. Don't forget that your most important function is to protect your friends' lives. Implement the Get REAL program in your school. Hold a mock car crash or Grim Reaper day. Do projects addressing suicide, the effects of alcohol and other drugs, school violence, acceptance of others, and so forth. Be creative.

Reach out to younger students. Be a mentor. They will look up to you and you can have a tremendous impact on them. Many chapters regularly have members speak to junior high and elementary students.

Use the media. Let the community and surrounding area know you're there and that you are willing to stand up for your beliefs.

Commit to going to regional and state events. Nothing can strengthen you and your chapter like getting to know like-minded young people from other towns. Other chapters are also a source of fresh ideas.

Have fun. Chapter members should be rewarded with fun outings. It is also a great way of showing would-be members that you know how to have a good time without alcohol and other drugs.

Conduct fundraisers. This will help visibility in your community, help you buy materials, bring speakers to your school, and help defray the cost of fun events and attending regional and state conferences.

Try to involve as many chapter members as possible. Everyone can make a difference, and they deserve a chance to do so. Ask for volunteers to help with specific projects. Encourage their input.

Be supportive, but not condemning. Try to provide support and be a positive role model for your peers. SADD isn't an *exclusive* group, but an *inclusive* one. We want to be there to help them. Be firm in your beliefs, yet forgiving at the same time. You don't have to agree with the decisions of others, but respect them and they will respect you and your decisions.

Volunteer for help in your community. Volunteerism is a great way to give back to people in the community. Not only is your service appreciated, but it feels great.