

TAAC NEWS

FEBRUARY 2016

A monthly newsletter brought to you by Crimestoppers GNO Teen Ambassadors Against Crime



2015-2016 TEEN AMBASSADORS AGAINST CRIME

Crime Lab Uncut

Ambassadors had an eye-opening experience during an exclusive 'behind the scenes' tour at the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory on February 20th. From meticulously positioning bullet patterns looking for matches to mixing liquid solutions to detect specific drugs found at crime scenes, lab experts graciously covered all facets of crime scene investigations and the importance of thoroughly collecting, analyzing and preserving evidence. Staff shared stories of times when the smallest items found at crimes scenes helped to solve a case, one of these stories included a piece of chewing gum! Perhaps one of the more defining moments of the day was the sentiments thirstily shared by one Ambassador to another, "Man this was awesome, it's what I want to do after college! I'm glad I came to this meeting, if I missed it I would have missed out on what I now think is my future career path.



TAAC Matters

My experience with the TAAC program has been unlike any other experience I've ever had in my life. Since I live in Slidell, I wasn't sure if the commute was going to be worth it; however, it's been worth it tremendously, I don't regret driving to any meetings! My favorite meeting so far was our trip to the crime lab. It made me start thinking about being a forensic scientist when I get older. Being a part of TAAC has been a great experience for me because I'm making new friends and memories I will never forget! I can't wait to find out what else the TAAC program will expose me to during future meetings!



-Brevin Williams, Slidell High School

And the Winners Are...

Attention Ambassadors: This is your time to shine! For the first time in TAAC history, we are offering the **"Speak Up" Save Lives Scholarship** to Ambassadors who effectively showcase safety and anti-violence advocacy initiatives within their school and community. Thanks to the generous donation of US Marshal, Genny May, our initial scholarship has been matched and now two winners will be selected to receive \$500 each towards school expenses. The scholarship deadline is April 23rd so be sure to get your application in on time. For more info, please contact Ms. Shira at 504-837-8477 or shira@crimestoppersgno.org.

Good luck to all contestants!

CRIMESTOPPERS Teen Ambassadors Against Crime
504-837-8477 GNO **Speak Up Save Lives**
 2016 Scholarship Application

This scholarship is sponsored by Crimestoppers GNO and the U.S. Marshal Genny May of LA. The Teen Ambassadors Against Crime Leadership Program educates students about the causes and consequences of crime, both in personal life as well as in society, their rights and responsibilities as citizens, and their ability to bring about meaningful change through advocacy and service. It provides youth awareness in public safety and crime prevention an opportunity to engage in ongoing active participation in crime prevention and to help greater focus on those leaders who will make positive impacts in our community.

The purpose of the Speak Up Save Lives Scholarship is to honor current Crimestoppers Teen Ambassadors Against Crime members who demonstrate significant safety and anti-violence advocacy initiatives within their school and community. All applicants must meet the Crimestoppers Leadership Program and Teen Ambassadors Against Crime Leadership Program entry application criteria for the 2015-2016 program. Applicants must also identify local law enforcement agencies, a U.S. Marshal, Service Through Faith, or other community organizations, and be able to successfully demonstrate their agreement to honor and the community.

Application Deadline is January, April 23, 2016 at 5pm.

Criteria for the award is: original, creative, illustrative, motivational and educational.

Entries can include presentations, videos, marketing materials, social media posts, blogs, pictures, etc.

The following criteria must be met for scholarship consideration:

- Applicant must have attended 80% of all meetings.
- Applicant can submit a single entry to participate in the award at the time of application deadline.
- Applicant must be a current member of the Teen Ambassadors Against Crime Leadership Program.

Entries will be selected by a panel of judges from the community. The panel will be made up of representatives from the community, law enforcement, and other community organizations.

Two winners will be selected to receive \$500 towards school expenses. Please note that this will be awarded to students related to their own respective school expenses.

Winners will be awarded during TAAC graduation, scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 5pm.

Please send all application materials to:
 Crimestoppers GNO
 P.O. Box 31208 Metairie, LA 70002

Application questions can also be emailed to: shira@crimestoppersgno.org

For questions regarding applications, please contact Crimestoppers at 504-837-8477.

CEO's Message

Dear TAAC members,

During our upcoming meetings you will get to experience the legal aspects of the criminal justice arena with the March 19th visit to the Rivarde Juvenile Detention Center and the April 6th presentation by the Honorable District Attorney for New Orleans, Leon Cannizzaro. We hope this will provide an up close and personal experience of what teens encounter when they break the law. It is important that we all understand consequences for illegal acts and how this can shape the rest of your lives. Many of our past participants have walked away with a greater appreciation for the legal system and the ways alternative programming can help soften the negative consequences for first time offenders.

As always, please take back what you learn from our programs and share it with others. That's what being an Ambassador is all about.

Happy Easter to All!



-Mrs. Darlene