



Gang Resistance Education and Training

Philosophy

The Gang Resistance Education And Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program is designed to help children set goals for themselves, resist pressures, learn how to resolve conflicts without violence, and understand how gangs and youth violence impact the quality of their lives. G.R.E.A.T. students discover for themselves the ramifications of gang and youth violence through structured exercises and interactive approaches to learning. It is the combined efforts of police, the schools, and the community, that make a difference in the lives of children in our community by providing them with the necessary skills and information to say "NO" to gangs and acts of random violence.



History

Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) began in fiscal year 1992 through a partnership between the Phoenix Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). Together with other Arizona police departments, a nine-lesson middle school curriculum was developed with the goal of reducing gang involvement and youth violence. Since then, a shorter third/fourth grade and fifth/sixth grade curriculum, as well as a summer component, have been developed. The purpose of the G.R.E.A.T. Program is to help children become responsible members of their communities by setting goals for themselves, resisting negative pressures, learning how to resolve conflicts, and understanding how gangs impact the quality of their lives. G.R.E.A.T. offers students a new philosophical outlook concerning gang activity and the tools needed to resist gang pressure.

The Jersey Village Police Department is a proud contributor of this program. Our continuing community programming is geared towards serving our citizens. On this basis we teach G.R.E.A.T. in area Cy Fair ISD schools where the children of our citizens attend.



AGENCY COMMITMENT

The success of the G.R.E.A.T. Program is founded on the mutual commitment of the Jersey Village Police Department and the CY Fair ISD. Together the common goal is to:

- Provide children with the skills necessary to combat the stresses that set the stage for gang involvement
- Provide children with accurate knowledge about gang involvement
- Provide children with the skills necessary to resolve conflicts peacefully
- Understand the need to set goals
- Meet basic needs without creating problems

The commitment of the JVPD and CY Fair ISD is the fundamental component of the program's success. Its importance has led to a formal agreement becoming a required element of the sponsoring agency and host school district. One core issue of the G.R.E.A.T. program is that the JVPD's commitment to allow the officer to interact with the children not only in the formal classroom setting, but also informally on the playground or in the cafeteria. These informal occasions greatly enhance the rapport-building process between the officer and the children. The informal time with the children is very much a part of the program and cannot be neglected.

As much as our agency focus is on customer service, officers in this program and who have served are proud of it's intent, purpose and view their service as a very rewarding assignment. However, the assignment demands a great deal of physical and emotional energy. The continued support of our elected officials, citizens and the police department are critical that this program will continue.

OFFICER SELECTION

The proper selection of your G.R.E.A.T. officer is also an important part of your program's success. As already indicated, the program is very intensive. Therefore, great care must be exercised in the selection of your officer. The following information will aid you in that selection process.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF A G.R.E.A.T. OFFICER

- Enthusiastic
- Dependable
- Enjoys working with children
- Flexible
- Positive
- Comfortable talking with a group of people from diverse backgrounds

DESIRED BACKGROUND

- Exemplary work record
- Positive role model
- Well respected by peers
- Well respected by agency management

SKILLS

- Able to grasp concepts and effectively communicate them both to children and adults
- Able to relate well to people, both children and adults
- Able to respond well to impromptu questions

OFFICER COMMITMENT

G.R.E.A.T. involves a great deal of personal commitment on the part of the officer(s). It begins with the intensive 80-hour training course for basic certification. The successful completion of the basic course requires the officer nightly to expend a minimum of four hours in preparation of the next day's assignments. Each officer will be required to make several formal presentations and successfully demonstrate each of the traits identified as essential for maximum program benefit. Failure to meet minimum standards will result in non-certification.