

When Your Teen Attends a Party

With spring finally here, end-of-year parties, proms, and other festivities will be common. The PTSO and CAFY have come together to offer some suggestions to consider when your teen attends a party. The teenage years are filled with memorable experiences, opportunities and choices, and as parents/guardians and members of the community, we hope to provide a safe atmosphere for our children.

These Guidelines are taken from a variety of web resources for you to consider with your teen.

1. Know where your teenager will be and for how long s/he will be there.

- Obtain the address and phone number of the party-giver
- Let your teen know that you expect a phone call if the location of the party changes.

2. Contact the parents of the party-giver about parental supervision and guidelines.

This is not an issue of parent-teen trust, but recognition of the fact that there are unsupervised parties in the community.

- Verify the occasion
- Offer assistance
- Make sure a parent will be present
- Be certain that alcohol will not be permitted

3. Know how your teen will get home from the party.

Coordinate transportation to and from the party with other parents.

4. Discuss with your teen the possible situation where alcohol or other drugs are available at a party.

- Let your teen know what you expect. If your family has set firm guidelines against illegal drinking, make those guidelines clear.
- Help your teen come up with ways to refuse either.

5. Make sure your teen knows what time s/he is expected to be home.

Be awake or have your son or daughter awaken you when s/he gets home.

6. If your teenager stays overnight with a friend after a party, check with the parents of the friend to verify that they want your child to stay over and that they will be home.

Spontaneous arrangements should always be confirmed with the host-parents.

7. Let your teen know if s/he wishes to leave a party for any reason, including the presence of alcohol or drugs, s/he can call you, or another designated adult.

8. For teens of driving age, know who will be driving your teenager to and from the party.

Ask your teen to contact you if there is any change in transportation or if s/he is not coming home from the scheduled party.

9. Your family should establish firm clear rules against driving after using alcohol or other drugs or riding with drivers who have been drinking or using drugs.

Take the time to talk with your teen about the dangers and legal problems that can result and suggest alternatives.

10. Discuss consequences should your teen decide to break any agreed upon rules.

*Linda Minkoff and Clare Harlow,
Community Alliance for Youth (CAFY)*

Mary Ann Ashton and Jan Couch, PTSO

For more information, see:

http://www.alcoholpolicymd.com/pdf/Wisconsin_Parents_Guide.pdf

<http://www.jtnn.org/partytips.asp>



Annual AB Special Education Parents Advisory Council Meeting

The Annual AB Special Education Parents Advisory Council Meeting, including election of officers for next year will take place on May 21 at 7:00 PM in the RJG Jr High Library. This meeting is open to all and includes families with children of all ages—preschool through age 21. For more information, see our website at <http://www.abspedpac.org/> or contact Nancy Sherburne at nsherburne@mindspring.com