

Red Ribbon Activities for Schools

- Designate a *Red Ribbon Week* coordinator and committee from students and staff to plan activities for the school.
- Distribute red ribbons to students, making sure they understand what the ribbon represents.
- Launch your program with the release of red balloons – as many as possible.
- Kick-off *Red Ribbon Week* in conjunction with homecoming, an important home football game, or another popular community event.
- Form a people chain on the football field to spell the words “DRUG-FREE” and have it photographed from the air. Or have students circle the school, locking hands to signify that they are banding together to keep the school drug-free. Try to get press coverage for either event.
- Schedule a “Band Against Drugs” musical assembly.
- Involve the whole family in your Red Ribbon Week celebration with a Family Fun Night, complete with games, booths and other activities.
- Host a special *Red Ribbon Week* Food Day in the school cafeteria, serving as many red foods as possible (for example, red apples, watermelon, pizza, spaghetti sauce, tomato juice, etc.).
- “Say Boo To Drugs” with a special Halloween Prevention Party.
- Sponsor “Hugs Not Drugs Day,” asking younger students to bring in their favorite stuffed animal.
- Sponsor a contest (essay, poster, poem, theme song, etc.) for *Red Ribbon Week*.
- Stage a “Car Caravan” and decorate cars with red ribbons and caravan to the site of a rally, game, dance, etc.
- Sponsor a “Slam Dunk – Drugs Are Junk,” basketball game during Red Ribbon Week.
- Encourage students to write and then sign their own personal pledges to live drug free.
- Design Red Ribbon Week banners to hang in front of the school or in a prominent place inside.
- Ideas for banners include:
 - “Drug Free and Proud”
 - “Hand in Hand Let’s Take a Stand” with student signed red hand prints
 - “Take a Stand on Drugs” with student signed red footprints

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Red Ribbon Activities for Communities (cont.)

- For younger students, have a coloring contest where they paint or color a prevention themed picture. For older students, have them design and complete their own prevention painting.
- Invite all students to sign their names on red ribbons and send them to Washington as a symbol of unity and concern for others.
- Use your school mascot or choose a special *Red Ribbon Week* campaign mascot to dress up and spread your message throughout the school.
- Conduct a *Red Ribbon Week* program for parents with student performed skits, songs, etc.
- Decorate the hallways for the *Red Ribbon Week* theme; include things like red paper chains or student hand prints cut from red paper.
- Organize a pep rally with contests between grades for the best anti-drug cheer.
- Organize drug education programs and integrate alcohol and other drug information into all curriculums during *Red Ribbon Week*.
- Offer half-price admission at a home ball game to anyone wearing a red ribbon.
- Light red candles at half-time and spend a moment of silence remembering students who have lost their lives to drugs and alcohol, repeat the drug-free pledge.
- "Lick the Drug and Alcohol Problem." Hand out red suckers to students, faculty and staff.
- Host a Drug-Free Party at the end of *Red Ribbon Week*. Students can play volleyball and basketball, watch videos, participate in contests, have pizza and dance.
- Give prizes to students who still have their red ribbon on the Friday of *Red Ribbon Week* or have drawings throughout the week requiring that to win students must be wearing their red ribbon. Prizes could be donated from local businesses.
- Have daily intercom messages that highlight the campaign activities for the day or deliver a message about the harmful effects of drug use.
- Make paper bricks, have each student put his or her name on one as a pledge to be drug free. Build a wall to "join together to be drug free."
- Ask the high school art class to make "Drugs are Garbage" signs for the trash cans at school and around town.
- Develop and play drug awareness games at school such as trivia contests, Jeopardy, bingo, scavenger hunt for "Red Ribbon Clues" or "Beat the Clock."

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Red Ribbon Activities for Communities (cont.)

Clothing Theme Ideas

- Sponsor a Red Day or Red Rally where everyone is encouraged to wear red – red socks, red hats, red shirts, maybe even red face paint. Give an award to the class with students covered in the most red.
- Ask students to participate in “Give Drugs the Slip Day” with everyone wearing slippers.
- Hold a “Sock It To Drugs Day” and ask everyone to wear the craziest socks they can find.
- Make a “Boot Out Drugs Day” with everyone wearing boots.
- Invite students to wear headbands or bandannas for a “Band Against Drugs” theme.
- Ask students to wear the craziest ties they can find for a “Tie Down Drugs” event.
- Wear clothing inside out for a “Don't Let Drugs Turn You” Day.
- Have a “Living Drug-Free Is No Sweat” day with everyone wearing sweat clothes to school.
- Ask everyone to wear sneakers for “Don't Let Drugs Sneak Up On You” day.
- Wear clothes backward for “Turn Your Back On Drugs” day.
- On “Shade Out Drugs Day,” suggest that everyone wear sunglasses.
- Have a “Red Head Day” and encourage students to wear something red on their heads.