2024 NATIONAL SCHOOL SAFETY CONFERENCE
FEATURING
THE 36th D.A.R.E. INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE
AGENDA

Monday July 29 Conference Workshop Session
9am-12noon (3 hours)
D.A.R.E. America/International Celebration
• Opening Remarks, Frank Pegueros, President/CEO D.A.R.E. America/International
• D.A.R.E. Family Memorial
• Award Presentations
• Special Motivational Speaker Retro Bill

12pm-1pm
Lunch (on your own)

1-3pm (2 hours)
Presenter: Ashley Frazier, D.A.R.E. America
Session Title: D.A.R.E. Middle School Update
Session Description: Join Ashley for a training session introducing the updated D.A.R.E. Middle School keepin’ it REAL curriculum, designed to resonate with today’s students. This session explores the updates made to the curriculum, including refreshed statistics, modernized design elements, and language that reflects current youth experiences. Check out the integration of vaping, marijuana, and pills into scenarios and role-plays, discover the innovative use of videos, featuring shorter, more focused content, and a new "like, comment, react" facilitation model aimed at encouraging active student engagement. All D.A.R.E. Instructors attending this session will be first in line to receive the limited supply of updated materials that will be available in Fall 2024.

4-6pm
Darecatalog OPEN

Tuesday July 30 Keynote Sessions, Workshop & Events
8am-5pm  
Darecatalog OPEN

8am-4pm  
Exhibit Hall Open

8am-10am  
National School Safety & DARE Opening Ceremonies

10am-12pm  
Keynote Presentation – Mr. Dave Davlin  
**Session Title: The Game-Winning 3**
This presentation is an hour of interaction, humor, audience participation mixed with a powerful message. It is a roller coaster ride of emotion that will find the audience engaged in hilarious laughter one moment and brought to tears the next. The audience will be challenged to make the most of every moment to develop themselves personally and professionally while creating value and making a difference in the lives of others.

12pm-1pm  
Lunch (on your own)

1pm-2:30pm  
Session Presenter: RETRO BILL – The Official International D.A.R.E. Safety & Self Esteem Buddy  
**D.A.R.E. Session Title: Be A Hero! Teaching Safety, Boosting Self-Esteem, And Encouraging Healthy Life Choices for K-12 Students!**
Celebrating his 26th year as the Official International D.A.R.E. Safety & Self-Esteem Buddy and being the 2023 Chief Daryl F. Gates D.A.R.E. Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient – RETRO BILL will deliver an informative, motivational and entertaining Classroom Instructional Presentation that utilizes humor, props, empathetic stories and proven techniques to instruct and inspire D.A.R.E. Officers and Educators on creative new ways to engage and “connect with” students. RETRO BILL’S unique style and delivery has been a D.A.R.E. Conference favorite for attendees for over two decades. He has proven to be a powerful motivator in helping D.A.R.E. Officers improve the effectiveness of their classroom Presentations and Graduations. Touted by Larry King as “The 21st Century’s Mr. Rogers” RETRO BILL is the perfect way to get motivated and to spend 90 minutes!
3pm-5pm
Keynote Presentation – Mr. Sean Burke
Session Title: Improving Your Crisis Response with Situational Awareness
This session will be focused on preparing school staff to identify and mitigate threats before they escalate into crises. From law enforcement officers to main office staff and leadership teams, this session will empower participants to cultivate a sustained mindset, seamlessly transition into alert mode and effectively communicate potential threats to prevent violence.

Wednesday July 31 Keynote Sessions & Events
8am-5pm
Darecatalog OPEN

8:30am-12pm
Keynote Presentation – Mr. Don Alwes
Session Title: When Terror Chooses YOUR School
Don is a trainer and law enforcement officer with over 33 years of experience. He has served as an adjunct instructor for Kentucky’s Department of Criminal Justice Training for 15 years and is a lead instructor for National Tactical Officers Association, Response to Active Shooter and School Violence courses. He has instructed thousands of school administrators and law enforcement officers in the areas of terrorism, homeland security, firearms, tactics, vulnerability assessment and executive development. As a team leader, Alwes supervised and performed anti-terrorism assessments and served as a subject matter expert for projects sponsored by the U. S Department of Justice’s National Institute of Justice

12pm-1pm
Lunch (on your own)

1pm-3pm
Keynote Presentation - Mr. Micheal Rudinski – School Security Manager, Howard County, MD
Session Title: Re-Emergence of Violent Gangs and their Impact on our Schools & Communities
This session will be focused on the uptick in gang activity across the United States and the violent impact it is having on both our schools and communities. Strategies for early intervention and prevention will be highlighted, and with interventions that have a proven track record of success.
3pm-4pm
Session Presenters: Ali Ameeni and David L. Wyrick, PhD
D.A.R.E. Session Title: Overview of the Collaborative Development, Optimization and Evaluation of the Anti-Extremism and Peaceful Co-Existence Curricula in the Kingdom of Bahrain: Accomplishments, Research Findings, and Lessons Learned
Under the direction of His Excellency Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Bahrain’s Minister of the Interior, Bahrain’s Maan program, D.A.R.E. International, and UNC Greensboro worked together to develop, evaluate, and optimize curricula to give Bahrain’s middle and high school students the knowledge and skills they need to practice peaceful co-existence and avoid extremism. The team implemented the innovative Multiphase Optimization Strategy (MOST), to optimize and evaluate the Peaceful Co-Existence and Anti-Extremism curricula. The overall goal of the collaboration is that the optimized versions of the peaceful co-existence and anti-extremism curricula will not only be used across the Kingdom of Bahrain but will also be translated for use in other countries to combat the spread of extremism and intolerance. The presenters will share accomplishments, research findings, and lessons learned.

3pm-5pm
Keynote Presentation - Deborah Graham, Collier County Sheriff’s Office, FL
Session Title: Creating & Managing an Effective Threat Management Team: A Multi-Bureau approach to School Violence
Behavioral Threat Management is proving to be a crucial step in reducing violence in schools and communities, with several states mandating strategies within public schools. In this session, we will provide an overview of the Collier County Sheriff’s Office (FL) Threat Management Team, highlighting our collaborative approach among the Investigative Services Bureau, the Behavioral Health Bureau, and the Delinquency Prevention Services Bureau. We are proud to have established a multi-bureau partnership with the Collier County Public Schools, and we look forward to sharing our insights with the community. Join us to learn more about how we are working together to keep our schools and communities safe.

Thursday Aug 1 Conference Breakout Sessions
8-9am (60 Minutes)
Presenter: Ashley Frazier, D.A.R.E. America
D.A.R.E. Session Title: D.A.R.E. Fentanyl Lessons and Community Partnership during the Continuing Opioid Crisis
Session Description: Discover how D.A.R.E. America is taking proactive steps to combat the escalating threat of the fentanyl crisis with innovative prevention education initiatives. Join us as we review our comprehensive Fentanyl Lesson and Presentation series, designed to equip D.A.R.E. Instructors and other LEOs with essential knowledge and strategies to address the lethal risks associated with fentanyl use. Learn about the development of targeted curricula, assembly presentations, and community outreach and partnership efforts aimed at raising awareness, dispelling misconceptions, and saving lives in the face of this urgent public health crisis.

Session Objectives:
- Introduction to D.A.R.E.’s Fentanyl Prevention Education Program.
- Walkthrough of the middle school fentanyl enhancement lesson, focusing on educating students about the extreme lethality of fentanyl and dispelling misconceptions about Narcan effectiveness.
- Discussion of the collaborative efforts between D.A.R.E. America and local communities to address the fentanyl crisis through tailored prevention education, leveraging existing infrastructure, and fostering community engagement.
- Call to action for conference attendees to join the fight against the fentanyl crisis by implementing evidence-based prevention strategies, advocating for policy changes, and supporting community-based initiatives to protect our youth and save lives.

9:30-10:30 (60 minutes each)
Presenter – Crissy Groenewegen, Smart Approaches to Marijuana Parent Action Network
Session Title: Empowering Families: Advocating for Science-based Marijuana Policies
Session Description: The Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM) Parent Action Network (PAN) offers a session delving into the impact of marijuana legalization and commercialization on families across diverse communities. Drawing from real-life experiences, PAN showcases the voices of parents and family members who have been adversely affected by the consequences of legalization. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of the multifaceted challenges faced by these families and about resources and toolkits available from PAN that can be shared with families in school communities.

Session Objectives:
- Highlight the diverse perspectives within the Parent Action Network (PAN), representing families affected by marijuana legalization.
- Share firsthand accounts of the negative impacts experienced by families due to the commercialization of marijuana.
- Emphasize the importance of science-based education in equipping parents with the tools to advocate for public health and safety.
- Explore effective advocacy strategies for empowering families to engage decision-makers and enact meaningful change.
• Introduce PAN's library of resources, including toolkits and training materials that can be used for community presentations, parent take-homes, and to keep families informed about current trends and opportunities to get involved.

Presenter: Steve Abercrombie, D.A.R.E. Instructor and California STC  
Session Title: D.A.R.E. Lessons Peer-to-Peer Learning Workshop  
Session Description: Join Steve Abercrombie for an engaging session where he will model ways to supplement the traditional D.A.R.E. lessons with innovative approaches to captivate students' attention and enhance learning outcomes. Explore dynamic strategies to infuse extended learning opportunities into D.A.R.E. lessons while maintaining fidelity to the program's core principles. Discover how to invigorate your classroom sessions, empower students to make healthy choices, and foster lasting connections between drug prevention education and real-world application.

Session Objectives:  
- Extend Learning Beyond the Classroom: Discover how to extend D.A.R.E. lessons beyond the classroom through take-home assignments, family engagement activities, and community-based projects that reinforce key concepts and encourage ongoing dialogue about drug prevention.
- Personalize Learning: Tailor D.A.R.E. lessons to meet the diverse needs and interests of students by offering choice-based activities, project-based learning opportunities, and extension activities that allow for individual exploration and expression.
- Maintain Program Fidelity: Ensure that innovative teaching methods align with the core principles and objectives of the D.A.R.E. program, including promoting positive peer relationships, building self-esteem, and resisting peer pressure to use drugs.
- Empower Student Leadership: Cultivate student leadership and ownership of drug prevention efforts by providing opportunities for peer mentoring, student-led initiatives, and advocacy campaigns within the school and community.

11:00-12:00 (60 minutes)  
Presenter: Marc Berkman, Organization for Social Media Safety  
Session Title: Protecting Our Youth: More Strategies for Safer Social Media Safety in a Digital Age  
Session Description: Join the Organization for Social Media Safety for a session focused on safeguarding students against the dangers of social media. Hear an update on the trends surrounding cyberbullying, hate speech, sexual harassment, propaganda, and mental health implications linked to excessive social media use. Learn about the innovative education, advocacy, and technological initiatives spearheaded by the organization to empower parents, educators, and policymakers in creating safer online environments for our children.
Session Objectives:
- Share the Organization for Social Media Safety’s multifaceted approach, combining education, advocacy, and technology to address social media-related dangers.
- Collaborative efforts with D.A.R.E. to expand the reach of social media safety education and empower law enforcement officers to educate students on navigating online risks.
- Offer practical tips for parents and caregivers to mitigate social media dangers, including discussions on pausing social media access, teaching children about blocking and reporting, and leveraging third-party safety software.

Presenter: Josh Uhernik – Advanced Police Concepts

Session Title: 2024 Drug trends in the schools and their impact on students, staff, and administration

Session Description: Join Josh Uhernik, a seasoned law enforcement officer turned educator, as he delves into the alarming rise of new drug trends infiltrating our school systems. Drawing from his extensive experience in drug investigations and collaboration with federal agencies, Josh sheds light on the latest substances posing risks to school-aged children. From Fentanyl to Hexahydrocannabinol (HHC), Kratom, and Nitazenes, discover how these substances are finding their way into the hands of students. Josh not only highlights the threats but also provides insights into proactive measures for educators, administrators, and counselors to safeguard students and address addiction issues. Don’t miss this essential session for anyone invested in protecting the well-being of students.

Presentation Objectives:
- **Educate on Emerging Drug Trends:** Provide attendees with up-to-date information on new drugs, including Fentanyl, HHC, Kratom, and Nitazenes, and their prevalence among school-aged children.
- **Raise Awareness of Risks:** Highlight the dangers associated with these emerging substances, including their potency, addictive potential, and adverse effects on physical and mental health.
- **Discuss Infiltration into School Systems:** Explore how these drugs are making their way into schools, whether through peer influence, online sources, or other avenues, and discuss strategies for detection and prevention.
- **Provide Resources for Intervention:** Equip educators, staff, and counselors with resources and strategies to identify signs of substance use, intervene effectively, and provide support and resources for students struggling with addiction.
- **Address Legal and Administrative Considerations:** Navigate the legal and administrative complexities surrounding drug-related issues in schools, including policies, procedures, and collaboration with law enforcement agencies.
12pm-1pm
Lunch (on your own)

1:00-2:30 (90 minutes)
**Presenter: Ashley Frazier, D.A.R.E. America (and friends)**

**Session Title: D.A.R.E. America Q&A**

**Session Description:** Join Ashley Frazier, D.A.R.E. America Director of Curriculum and Training (and anyone else she can round up for the fun) for an informal session where you can bring your questions, thoughts, ideas, and great stories to share and get answers, feedback, reactions, and anything else that comes up in the allotted time. Will there be prizes? Will there be crying? You won’t know unless you show!