

TAAC NEWS

JANUARY 2016

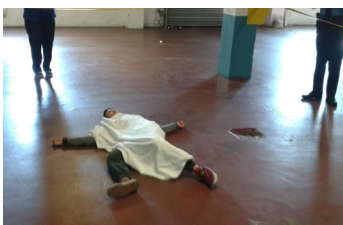
A monthly newsletter brought to you by Crimestoppers GNO Teen Ambassadors Against Crime



2015-2016 TEEN AMBASSADORS AGAINST CRIME

Order in the Courtroom

With the continued support of Criminal Court Judge, the Honorable Robin Pittman, and other top officials in law enforcement, Ambassadors spent their morning reenacting a crime scene followed by its court case. The purpose of the TAAC mock trial is to simulate the actual proceedings carried out judicially when youth are involved in crime. From tough questions led by attorneys to credible witnesses taking the stand, Ambassadors learned their rights and responsibilities on both sides of the law. In a twist of fate, jurors found the criminal who confessed to the crime innocent, by way of insanity, and found his accomplice guilty of 2nd degree murder. While the mock trial may have been purposeful fun and games, Ambassadors ended their session convinced that while justice can be served, it is in their best interest to refrain from deviant behavior and serve as role models of peace, not subjects of crime.



TAAC Matters

The TAAC program has been a wonderful experience so far! I've been given the opportunity to learn about and do things I didn't even know existed while making new friends. One of our more recent activities was having a mock trial in a real court house. After the trial, we were able to ask questions from people that are experts with the legal system such as a judge, attorneys, police officers, etc. This program gives teens an opportunity to learn in a real hands-on way while still keeping it fun at the same time. I, as well as my fellow teen ambassadors, truly appreciate that this program values our thoughts and opinions and really gives us a voice. It's been a great experience so far and I'm excited for what's still in store.



Crime Lab Uncut

What happens when weapons are used at a crime scene? What is the chemical make up of drugs? How are fingerprints processed? Do tire tread marks matter? How much DNA is needed to identify a suspect? It's going down on **Saturday, February 20th** when Ambassadors visit the **Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office Crime Lab Unit**. Ambassadors will get the inside scoop on forensic scene investigation procedures and talk with experts on what it takes to work in their field.

Please rsvp to Ms. Shira by February 15th for this meeting: shira@crimestoppersgno.org.

CEO's Message

It's carnival time! Whether you're surviving a toothache from eating too much king cake or losing your voice from repeatedly shouting 'throw me something, Mister,' there are ample ways you can celebrate parade season. More importantly, there are also numerous ways you can stay safe if you decide to join the large crowds and vie for stylish throws on parade routes. **Establish your game plan**, map out your route and means for transportation. Let a parent/guardian know where you'll be and who you're traveling with. **Travel in groups**, not alone. If you are able, have an adult accompany your group. **Keep your valuables close and to a minimum**, carrying large bags/purses and having visible phones in your back pocket can be easy target items for pickpocketers. No matter where you decide to enjoy the parades, try to **locate nearby law enforcement officers** so that you can get support quickly if there is an emergency. For more safety tips, please visit www.crimestoppersgno.org and click on Crime Prevention Resources. Have a wonderful Mardi Gras and *Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler!*

Mrs. Darlene

