

Sponsors



A Fairfax County, Va. publication

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Please Contact:
Road DAWG

Fairfax County Community and Recreation Services

703-324-TEEN

703-324-8336

TTY 711

Fairfax County is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities and will provide reasonable accommodations upon request. To request special accommodations call 703-324-4FUN (4386), TTY 711. Please allow ten working days in advance of the event in order to make the necessary arrangements.

ROAD DAWG

DON'T ASSOCIATE WITH GANGS

An initiative of the Fairfax County Police Department
in collaboration with Fairfax County Government
Human Services Agencies

Road DAWG is a collaborative venture that provides positive, prevention-focused activities for middle school youth. Road DAWG operates under the premise that all youth are at-risk for gang involvement. Sponsors work collaboratively to address the problems confronting our youth and their families. A single agency cannot do it alone. Fairfax County agencies participating in Road DAWG are:

- Office of the County Executive
- Police Department
- Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board
- Department of Community and Recreation Services
- Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
- Department of Family Services
- Health Department
- Public Schools
- Fire and Rescue Department
- Sheriff's Office
- Department of Housing and Community Development
- Department of Systems Management for Human Services

DAWG
CAMP SPONSOR:

Fairfax County Police Department
County Office of the County Executive

Fairfax County Community and Recreation Services
Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

Fairfax County Family Services
Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department

Fairfax County Health Department
Fairfax County Public Schools

Fairfax County Sheriff's Office
Fairfax County Human Services Agencies

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Background

Road DAWG was developed in 2004 as a week-long camp at one site to address and prevent gang recruitment in neighborhoods identified through community meetings. The name “Road DAWG” came from an affectionate slang term for street officers. The camps, which serve at-risk youth, have expanded to three sites. The program also includes ongoing follow-up and activities with the campers and their families throughout the year.

Road DAWG is based on strategies proven to be effective in strengthening youth resilience and helping to prevent problem behaviors.

Road DAWG:
Connects kids with after-school programs in their schools and communities.

Looks at individual / family needs and links to resources.
Continues contact with youth and families.

Includes follow-up activities throughout the year.



Activities

All activities during the week help participants understand the risk of problem situations, identify consequences of high-risk behavior, identify community help resources, and develop action plans for the school year.

Each day of the camp has a different focus. By the end of the camp participants will be able to:

- Define risk.
- Identify positive risk-taking situations.
- Identify negative risk-taking situations.
- Define what is meant by “consequences.”
- Identify a possible consequence of engaging in the following: substance use, bullying, fighting, and gangs.
- Identify one person to ask for help in their families, schools and communities.
- Identify places to go to for help in their neighborhoods.
- Identify new activities to participate in during the school year.



Camp Goals

All of the participating agencies work together to achieve Road DAWG goals. These goals include:

- **Educate** and increase positive decision-making skills to resist: gang involvement, the use of violence for problem solving, and experimenting with alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.
- **Provide** youth with constructive alternatives to just “hanging out.”
- **Promote** career exploration.
- **Introduce** youth to programs and services offered in their communities.
- **Expose** youth to recreational activities.
- **Help** youth build a stronger bond with their schools and communities.

