

Press Release:
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From: Milo Garcia, Chair
Sevier Valley Substance Abuse Council (SVSAC)
Phone 435 201-1934, 435 896-5165
email: mfgarcia@svsaonline.org

Video-Game Competition as Part of Family Substance Abuse Conference

On Friday April 19, 6 PM-10 PM, and on Saturday from 10 AM to 5:00 PM, as part of the Central Utah Substance Abuse Conference sponsored by Sevier Valley Substance Abuse Council (SVSAC) and Richfield City, youth will be involved in video-game competition. The games for younger youth will be held at the Richfield High School as part of their Saturday semi-structured activities (ages 6-13) from 10 AM to 3 PM; older youth and adults will compete in various rooms at the Richfield and Cedar Ridge High Schools. If game units are available young adults may play the games but they must first attend at least one substance-abuse workshop at the SVC. Different types of games will be played in different rooms; room assignments will vary depending on the maturity-level of the games and age of the participants. Video games with strong language and intense violence will not be allowed.

There will be winners in different areas and on different games and for different age-groups. Youth who know "a lot" about these games will be utilized as "expert consultants" during the video-game competition.

Leanne Geigle, conference coordinator said, "It's sometimes difficult to pull kids away from the video games--they're addicted! So in order to get the kids and parents to the conference--if you can't beat 'em, join 'em."

Donations and volunteers are still needed. Milo Garcia, Chair of SVSAC said, "We have some donated items so far--but it's not enough. We still have a huge need for game units and TVs. If anyone has "in good-working order new or used TV's, PS2's, Game Cubes, or Xbox units--we have a tremendous need for these types of donations to SVSAC."

Garcia said that SVSAC staff will do their best to pull-off this competition. "Loaned TVs and game units are also acceptable. If youth or adults have a skill setting up these game-units including Dance Revolution, Rock Star, Guitar Hero, Karaoke, etc--please contact SVSAC to volunteer. Any person who has experience running video-game competition would be extremely helpful to SVSAC for this conference. Contact us at 435 201-1934."

Prior to the conference, donated units and TV's may be sent or delivered to 255 South Main Street, Richfield, Utah, 84701. At the day of the event, on Friday April 18, starting at 1 PM, TV's and Video-Game units can be taken to the front of Richfield High School; SVSAC adults and volunteers will assist donors at the curb. SVSAC adult staff will log

and appropriately and temporarily mark the loaned game-units and TV's. Because some equipment may be heavy, carts with wheels will be used to transport video-game units and TVs. Garcia said, "We realize we need community cooperation to provide video-game competition. But we'll try to organize those events that will bring the kids out to the conference if they'll bring their parents. Close security will be maintained with all aspects of this equipment. To protect against fraud, a code will be provided to the lender, and that code and ID must be shown in order to re-obtain the game unit or TV."

Garcia said that from April 14-18, if people call SVSAC, "We will go pick up any game-units and TVs in Richfield and neighboring towns. All units and TVs will be returned from April 21-25."

Sharry Jolley who is the assistant conference-coordinator said, "Lunch will be free for the children who are registered; it is also free for adults who attend the morning workshops. You can register when you show up--the conference is free. Food and drinks for purchase will also be available. The Battle of the Bands will be from 10 AM to 4:30 PM. There will be a custom car show from 10 AM - 3:30 PM. We'll have a general assembly and awards presentations at 6 PM in the SVC Theatre featuring Miss Utah "GI Jill" Stevens and first woman governor of Utah, Olene Walker. The family dance starts at 7 PM. A raffle and great prizes will be given away at the dance. The award-winning film 'Happy Valley' will be repeated throughout the day at the SVC Theatre and Richfield High School auditorium. Don't miss this family substance-abuse conference whatever you do!"

The organizers of the event hope that the myriad of activities that focus on substance abuse will provide a stimulating environment to reinforce the idea that people can have fun and "get high on life," without doing drugs. They also want families to know that they're not alone in their battle to keep themselves from harmful drugs. Garcia said, "SVSAC's logo is 'zero tolerance for the drug' and 'total support for the user.' When this conference is over we hope that those who attended will come away with the feeling that "our family wants to be drug free or become drug free." The organizers want to make this type of family drug-conference to become an annual late-April event in Richfield.

Donations and volunteers are still needed. For more information regarding times and locations of the many recreational activities for youth and the 24 different substance-abuse workshops for parents and professionals--and to "kNOw more" about drugs--go to SVSACOnline.org, or Call Leanne at 435 896-8236 or Milo at 435 896-5165.