

Tonka CARES Initiatives

Parent Networking Directory

Each fall, Tonka CARES creates networking directories for parents of middle school and high school students. Parents take a pledge and then are included in a directory that is mailed to families. We will begin taking pledges this spring for fall directories. Watch the News-O-Gram and Splash for a registration link. As an example, here is the program and pledge offered to middle school parents.



What are the benefits for participating in the "KNOW the Power of Parents" pledge program for middle school parents?

- Names, phone numbers, and addresses of MME and MMW "KNOW" participants are published in a directory, which encourages parents to network.
- When adults join together and take a united stand, they feel more empowered to "do the right thing," and are often more effective than when they act separately.
- As your kids mature, they will become increasingly sophisticated in making plans independently. Building your own network of parents will help you stay informed.

Parental responsibility when hosting a youth party or gathering:

- Confirm with parents who call about the party that alcohol will not be available nor allowed. (Parent Tip: Facilitate a comfortable call by offering up this information before being asked. You may also want to mention media, i.e., your family position on R-rated movies, video game ratings, and/or internet monitoring.)
- Be a visible host. (Parent Tip: Use small snack dishes and replenish often!)
- Encourage "by invitation only" gatherings so you know who is at your home.
- Call the parents of anyone who appears to be under the influence or is in possession of illegal substances. (Parent Tip: If it were your child, wouldn't you want to know?)

Suggested parental responsibility when your child is invited to an activity:

- Call the adult in charge of the activity to verify the occasion, location, and that there will be "active" adult supervision.
- If the activity seems inappropriate, express your concern, keep your child home, and seek an alternate activity.
- Your job is not to just "trust," but to "verify" your child's plans. BE A PARENT, NOT A PAL!

KNOW the Power of Parents Pledge:

- I will actively supervise the activities of my child's friends when they visit our home.*
- I will continue to foster open communication and share accurate information to help my child make good choices.*
- I will establish a clear "family position" on the use of illegal substances and discuss this position with my child(ren) on a regular basis.*
- I will support MME and MMW prevention curriculum and school discipline policies relating to illegal substance use among our youth.*
- I will not serve nor will I allow anyone under the legal drinking age to consume alcohol in my home or on my property.*