

# The Youth Leader

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## Youth Advocacy Training

Last semester, Project Prevent offered Youth Advocacy Training to chapters around the state. Participating chapters learned about policies and advocacy and how they can use these tools to make a difference in their city.

The training allowed students to grasp a better understanding of how they can develop their own tobacco-free policy for their town, parks and any other public spaces.

Barbara Kumpe led most of the trainings. Barbara, director of the Arkansas Tobacco Control Coalition (ARTCC), had previously worked as a lobbyist for the American Heart Association for many years. She was instrumental in the passing of Arkansas' Clean Indoor Air Act.

Some of the participating chapters went on to meet with their local school board to address tobacco-free policies. Berryville High School and IGNITE Youth Group in Boone County are two of these chapters.

## Fast Facts

February is Oral Health Month! Smokeless tobacco is just as harmful to your health as cigarettes/e-cigarettes.

1. Smokeless tobacco has at least 28 cancer causing chemicals.
2. Smokeless tobacco can cause teeth to rot.
3. Smokeless tobacco users are 80% more likely to get cancer in the mouth.



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# PPYC Chapter Highlights

- Charleston High School created a banner to promote a tobacco-free lifestyle and show support for our troops. Students carried the banner in their local Veteran’s Day parade.
- Berryville High School made an impact at their local school board meeting. Students explained the importance of a tobacco-free campus and council members agreed to enforce the rules more strongly.
- IGNITE Youth Group in Boone County successfully advocated for a tobacco-free courthouse square.



Left: Charleston High School PPYC walk in their local Veteran’s parade



Right: IGNITE youth group speaks to their school board

Don’t forget to send us pictures from your events so you can be featured in our newsletter and on our social media.



Stephanie Bell  
Program Assistant  
Project Prevent Youth Coalition

“Did you know that we’ve had over 500 NEW chapter members join PPYC this year? That means we are trying to reach 500 Instagram followers!

Rumor has it there’s a fun surprise that might happen when we reach 500. Go give us a follow, **@sosprojectprevent**, and help us reach our goal!”



## You’re Invited!

“The annual **Ready. Set. Record.** Film Festival will be held on February 20th from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Ron Robinson Theater, 100 River Market Ave, Little Rock, AR.

For 15 years, students have used video, acting and editing skills to demonstrate their ability to effectively advocate for a life-saving tobacco prevention policy.

This year’s theme is *Youth Led. Fact Fed.* and the event will showcase videos from the finalists within several categories. Please join us in celebrating youth advocacy and creativity as we strive to make the next generation of Arkansans tobacco and nicotine free!”



Laura Taylor  
Statewide Coordinator  
Project Prevent Youth Coalition

To attend, please register at <https://bit.ly/2RGpYfx>.

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