

# Maricopa Association of Governments Youth Empowerment Project Frequently Asked Questions



## What is the Youth Empowerment Project?

The Youth Empowerment Project provides teens with the information they need to identify and prevent dating and family violence. Resources and support for teens experiencing a violent dating or family situation are provided on the *Web of Friends* Web site ([www.WebofFriends.org](http://www.WebofFriends.org)) and through a series of public service announcements created for teens, by teens.

## Why was it started?

Many local teens told us they don't always feel safe in their dating relationships, their homes, or their communities. Fifty-one percent of teens participating in these local focus groups reported that they, or someone they knew, had been involved in a violent dating relationship. Teens stated that if they were in a violent relationship, they would most likely turn to their friends and/or look for information online. This project empowers teens to be that source of support for themselves and each other.

## What is the Public Service Announcement (PSA) Competition and who can enter?

The PSA Competition invites teens to create concepts for speaking to other teens about dating violence. Teens are encouraged to creatively incorporate required messages into print ads and/or Web banners to visit the *Web of Friends* Web site. The competition is open to teens between the ages of 12-19 in Maricopa County. Entries must be received by December 12, 2008.

## Why would I want to enter this competition?

Entries will be judged with first, second and third place winners in each category. Winners will be announced and prizes given at a recognition event. Winners may receive prizes such as cash or gift certificates. The first place winner in at least one of the categories will have his/her work professionally produced and distributed throughout the region.

## How are the entries judged?

All competition entries will be reviewed by a panel of judges that includes teens. Entries are judged on their content or concept, not how professionally they are produced. Entries should focus on the topic of dating violence and include the required messages listed on the entry form. Entries will be judged on inclusion of the specified teen dating violence messages, clear visual concept, impact of concept, interest to teens, and creativity.

## Why do I need to fill out a questionnaire?

The questionnaire is very important! Your responses are compiled and used for research, evaluation and reporting purposes. They provide valuable information on how we can improve the Youth Empowerment Project.

For more information, please contact Renae Tenney at [rtenney@mag.maricopa.gov](mailto:rtenney@mag.maricopa.gov) or 602-254-6300.



See the Signs.



the Abuse.

[WebofFriends.org](http://WebofFriends.org)

