



WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT & COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO HOST WILL COUNTY'S THIRD ANNUAL TAR WARS POSTER CONTEST

JOLIET – During the 2009-2010 academic year, 27 Will County elementary schools have participated in a Will County Health Department tobacco prevention program called Tar Wars.

The Tar Wars initiative is a free program for 4th and 5th grade students created by the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). The program is designed to teach kids about the short-term, image-based consequences of tobacco use, the cost associated with using tobacco products, and the advertising techniques used by the tobacco industry to market products to youth.

A Tar Wars curriculum consists of a pre-activity exercise, an hour-long classroom presentation and a follow-up poster contest. To help reinforce the Tar War message, poster contests are conducted at the local, state and national level. For general information about the Tar Wars program, visit www.tarwars.org.

Tar Wars programming was implemented in Will County schools during 2007. Since then, Tobacco Control & Prevention health-educators have reached more than 5,500 students during 142 presentations at 38 local schools.

The 2010 Will County Tar Wars poster contest is set for March 19, in the Will County Health Department Community Room (501 Ella Avenue), in Joliet. Posters will be judged on the basis of positive message content, creativity, originality, and artistic ability.

All posters meeting eligibility requirements will be displayed for judging between 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Winners will be announced at 3:30 p.m.

All are welcome to participate in the judging. Five students and their winning submissions will advance to the state Tar Wars poster contest in April.

For more information about the Will County Tar Wars poster contest, Email Jennifer Blair (jblair@willcountyhealth.org), or telephone 815-774-7312.



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