

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SADD TEENS TAKE PART IN

National Drug & Alcohol Facts WeekSM BY PERFORMING AN INFORMATIVE SKIT

*Group joins teens across the U.S. in week-long effort to **SHATTER THE MYTHS**^{TM,SM} on drugs and alcohol*

GREENBELT, MD — Teenagers from Eleanor Roosevelt's SADD chapter have joined forces with other teens and scientists across the United States as part of "[National Drug & Alcohol Facts WeekSM](#)" (NDAFW). The week-long health observance, organized by the [National Institute on Drug Abuse](#) (NIDA) and the [National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism](#) (NIAAA), both part of the [National Institutes of Health](#), takes place Monday, January 23rd through Sunday, January 29th. NDAFW celebrates the inquisitive minds of teens by giving them a space (virtual or physical) to ask questions about drugs and alcohol and to get scientific answers from experts. As part of the NDAFW celebration, Eleanor Roosevelt SADD students are performing a skit to depict the dangers of teen drug use. They will also be allowing students to test out "fatal vision" goggles as well as conducting a sobriety test to experience the dangers of drunk driving firsthand.

About a third of high school seniors across the country report using an illicit drug sometime in the past year, and more than ten percent report non-medical use of a narcotic painkiller. While drugs can put a teenager's health and life in jeopardy, many teens are not aware of the risks. Even for those teens who do not abuse drugs, many have friends or family who do, and they are often looking for ways to help them.

A 2015 study on teen drug use revealed that 52.3% of Maryland high school students have drunk alcohol before, and about half of these students had consumed alcohol within 30 days of being surveyed. A study in the same year showed that over 30% of Maryland high schoolers had taken marijuana before, and well over half of them had taken marijuana recently.

"We want teens to have the opportunity to learn what science has taught us about drug abuse, alcohol, and addiction," said Mrs. Joanne Read, Eleanor Roosevelt High School's SADD Advisor. "There are so many myths about drugs and alcohol cluttering our popular culture. National Drug & Alcohol Facts WeekSM is for teens to get honest answers about drugs so they can make good, informed decisions for themselves and share accurate information with friends. Our chapter is focusing on informing their peers about the dangers of alcohol and marijuana abuse as well as prescription drug and heroin abuse, which are most prevalent in the DMV."

NDAFW will be supported by 10 different organizations in Maryland. They will be hosting events and discussions on teen substance abuse and how to address it.

Students Against Destructive Decisions is a nationwide organization dedicated to raising awareness on the dangers associated with drug and alcohol use in teens. SADD conducts an array of events, like our upcoming skit on January

26, to help keep citizens alert and aware. Announcements about this special event and many others will be made to our student body informing them about our activism.