



# TRUCE NEWS



TRUCE: Teens Resisting Unhealthy Choices Everyday

## BENNINGTON STUDENTS ATTEND KYLS SUMMIT

For the eighth year in a row, Bennington High School TRUCE was accepted to attend the Kansas Youth Leadership Summit. Commonly called TABS (Teen Action Builds Success), over 250 high school youth are invited to Rock Springs 4-H camp for three days by The Kansas Family Partnership. This Summit is free to participants via a grant from the Kansas Department of Transportation.

While at the Summit, participants not only dance, sing, make new friends but also are afforded opportunities to practice leadership skills, build action plans for their communities, attend workshops about a variety of topics and listen to speakers about issues that affect their daily lives. Topics include inattentive driving, dangers of alcohol consumption, and awareness of seatbelt safety. Many of the workshops include experiential learning by allowing students to ride the “Convincer,” driving with goggles that imitate impaired senses, and watching Emergency Medical Service personnel re-enact car crashes.

Throughout the event, friendships are made with other students throughout Kansas. The Bennington Team, as well as the other school teams, met often to discuss, evaluate data, and construct “action plans” for their own schools and communities.

Bennington Action Plan is already underway with a survey of staff and students to discover if the team’s assumptions are correct. TRUCE members will meet with administration and the USD 240 Board of Education and share the results of the survey. Team members hope to affect changes in the school student population that increase student moral and safety in the school with emphasis on theft reduction, tobacco use reduction, drug and alcohol consumption reductions and bullying reductions.

Kayci Breese, Lucas Garrett and Heath Thornhill. served as Teen Leaders at the Summit: These students were selected by KYLS staff to serve and also attended the TABS two-day training during July, held in Topeka, Kansas. The Bennington Team members were: Ryein Hensley, Kristen Mann, Geneva Masse, Kajaunza Mills, Adam Schieferecke, Cameron Stanley, Jake Stewart, Mary Swetson, and John Wagner. The sponsors of TRUCE are Rosemary Neaderhiser and Elizabeth Harris.

**In addition to Bennington Students:** Amber Bell, Tescott High School student, also attended the Summit as a Teen Leader. Amber will be leading the efforts in Tescott. Helping to sponsor this group is Elizabeth Harris, Spanish Teacher for USD 240.