

South Dakota National Guard Public Affairs Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Camp Rapid hosts Youth to Youth conference

By Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen
SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The South Dakota National Guard’s Counterdrug program is hosting more than 80 students from the Black Hills area at Camp Rapid for the 2012 Youth to Youth Conference, Jan. 26-28.

The Youth to Youth program focuses on drug education and information, personal growth, decision making, environmental change and drug-free fun.

“We would not be able to have this conference in Rapid City without the National Guard,” said Pam Teaney Thomas, president of Adolescent Substance Abuse Prevention. “The Guard provides us with a facility and a place for our young people to spend the night.”

Part of the youth to youth model is having young people bond in a drug-free environment. The students will participate in teambuilding activities, games, and listen to informative presentations on character building and the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

“Youth to Youth is a unique program that allows students to plan and lead the conference with adult guidance,” said Thomas.

Not only will students take part in teambuilding activities, they will hear Ty Sells, an alcohol and drug-free presenter who entertains and motivates young audiences to live drug-free lives and deal with peer pressure by looking inward to personal strengths.

“I like the high energy here,” said youth staff member Ryder Wilson, 17, of Wall. “You always feel welcome. This conference also shows you that there are more options when having fun than doing drugs.”

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120126-A-CW157-001: More than 80 students from the Black Hills area participate in the 2012 Youth to Youth Conference hosted by the South Dakota National Guard Counterdrug program at Camp Rapid Jan. 26-28, 2012. The Youth to Youth program focuses on drug education and information, personal growth, decision making, environmental change and drug-free fun.(Photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen) (RELEASED)



120126-A-CW157-002: Master Sgt. Kristi Palmer, Drug Demand Reduction administrator for the South Dakota National Guard, talks to more than 80 students from the Black Hills area at the Youth to Youth Conference hosted by the SDNG Counterdrug program at Camp Rapid, Jan. 26-28, 2012. The Youth to Youth program focuses on drug education and information, personal growth, decision making, environmental change and drug-free fun.(Photo by Staff Sgt. Theanne Tangen) (RELEASED)

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please contact Maj. Anthony Deiss at (605) 737-6721 or cell (605) 431-8753, or e-mail pao@sd.ngb.army.mil