



MEDIA ADVISORY

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NM youth learn art of advocacy at Santa Fe retreat

SANTA FE—One hundred youths from across the state will gather in Santa Fe this weekend to learn about lawmaking – how it works and how they can educate lawmakers about the issues that affect them.

The youths are gathering at the annual YEAH! Coalition Legislative Retreat from Saturday, Feb. 7 through Monday, Feb. 9. YEAH! (Youth Empowerment Advocacy Heroes!) is a statewide coalition of school and community groups working together on the prevention of tobacco use among youth. The annual retreat is coordinated by Youth Link, a program of NM Voices for Children.

The first two days will be dedicated to leadership training, team building, and peer-to-peer education on preventing tobacco use among youth. For the first time, the retreat will feature a national trainer. Holly Aprea is the Program Director for [Catalyst](#), Minnesota's youth mobilization and tobacco prevention project. The youth will also work with local trainers, the NM Media Literacy Project, and Senator Peter Wirth.

On Monday the youths will visit with their legislators at the state Capitol, before gathering in the Rotunda at 10am for their Brown Ribbon Day press conference. Brown Ribbon Day is the state's official tobacco awareness day. They will then team up with another NM Voices for Children program – KIDS COUNT – for a press conference to release the 2008 NM KIDS COUNT data book.

WHAT: YEAH! Coalition Legislative Retreat

WHEN: Feb. 7, 9:30am-6pm; Feb. 8, 11am-5:30pm; Feb. 9, 9am-2pm.

WHERE: Genoveva Chavez Community Center (Feb. 7 & 8, 3221 Rodeo Rd.); state Capitol (Feb. 9), Santa Fe

WHO: Youth members of the YEAH! Coalition and Youth Link

INTERVIEW/PHOTO OP: Youth will be available for photos and interviews on Sunday, Feb. 8, 4:35-5:10pm, during tee-shirt making activities. The youth will wear the tee-shirts the next day at the Capitol. All other interviews should be scheduled in advance, if possible, through Rasa Herzog.

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Youth Link is a program of New Mexico Voices for Children and is funded by the New Mexico Department of Health Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Program.
New Mexico Voices for Children is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization advocating for policies to improve the health and well-being of New Mexico's children, families and communities.
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