

# YEAH! Events

## General Retreats

General Retreats are youth-led trainings held twice a year (see below). Retreats allow member organizations of the YEAH! Coalition to get together in one place to network, learn teamwork and develop the skills they will need to conduct local education and action projects. The **New Mexico Media Literacy Project** (NMMLP; <http://www.nmmlp.org/>) is also on hand to educate members about the role media plays in issues such as tobacco use and youth violence. The retreats encourage the expression of new ideas, and new friendships are formed. Each member group may send four youths and one adult to the General Retreats.

The **Legislative Retreat** focuses on teaching members in the legislative process and training them to becoming more effective in advocating for their communities and their state. This training is held each year while the legislative session is in process. An extensive amount of time is spent examining current youth-related bills and deciding whether or not the YEAH! Coalition will support each bill. Members learn how a bill is introduced, how the legislative committees work, and how to present themselves in committee meetings. The **Summer Retreat** focuses on teambuilding and developing public presentation skills.

## Delegate Training Meetings

In Delegate Meetings, which are also youth-led, YEAH! Coalition business is discussed, members network, and ideas are shared about the projects and events being undertaken by YEAH! member groups from around the state. Each member group is invited to send two youths and one adult, who are chosen by their peers to represent their group as a whole.

The **Fall Delegates Meeting** focuses on making decisions about and preparing for upcoming events and initiatives (such as the Legislative Retreat and newsletter), and reviewing and resolving issues of concern so that the YEAH! Coalition functions more smoothly and serves its members better. It is also a time to welcome new members and groups. The **Spring Delegates Meeting** focuses on the review and update of the YEAH! Two-Year Strategic Plan. Training on various issues is also provided for the selected delegates to share with their groups.

## Teleconference Meetings

Members call from their meeting places or homes to join in these meetings, which are held in the evenings. Teleconferences help YEAH! members from all over the state keep in contact between retreats and trainings. Due the number of phone lines available, a limited amount of members from each group is allowed to participate.

**General Teleconference Meetings** are held four times a year, usually every other month. They are used to announce new statewide events and update attendees on decisions made at Delegates Teleconferences and Trainings. Members also give updates on their groups and a current event is discussed. The current event is usually pulled from a recent newspaper article relating to tobacco issues. The article is read aloud and members discuss their opinions about it. Each group is allowed two phone lines for participation.

**Delegates Teleconference Meetings** are also held four times a year, on alternating months, to discuss current issues, take action, and update YEAH! initiatives and events (i.e. the Fame and Shame awards). Delegates give updates on their group's community events and activities and also select a discussion topic for the next General Teleconference Meeting. Each group is allowed one phone line, so delegates represent their group as a whole.

## YEAH! Coalition Newsletter

The **YEAH! Times** is published twice a year – once in the winter and once in the summer. The newsletter announces all YEAH! initiatives, upcoming events, Youth Advocate of the Year Award winners, and reviews past events for those who couldn't attend. The newsletter also includes the YEAH! calendar and group updates, and is posted on the New Mexico Voices for Children website. All coalition members are invited and encouraged to submit articles, announcements, and their jokes, poems and cartoons.

## Fame and Shame Awards Event

This fun Oscar-style awards ceremony is held on or around national **Kick Butts Day** in collaboration with New Mexico Media Literacy Project, as part of the **Smoke Free Movies Campaign**. YEAH! Coalition members participate in planning and implementing the event, and identify Hollywood stars and producers to be praised or shamed for their smoking content in current Hollywood films. **Shamie Awards** are announced for 'winners' in categories like 'Movie That Glamorized Smoking the Most' and 'Actor/Actress That Glamorized Smoking the Most.' The **Youth Kicking Tobacco's Butt Youth Advocate of the Year Award** (see below) is also presented to youth who have been nominated from all around the state. All members and their family and friends are invited to attend.

## Youth Kicking Tobacco's Butt Youth Advocate of the Year Award

This annual award is bestowed to one middle school student and one high school student by a panel of five judges statewide, with input from the Department of Health's Tobacco Use Prevention And Control (TUPAC). Nominees are youth advocates from all over the state who have distinguished themselves as leaders working to protect their peers and communities from tobacco addiction and tobacco-related illnesses. One purpose of the award is to demonstrate that youth are part of the solution to the youth tobacco use problem. It is presented at the Fame and Shame Awards where winners receive certificates and prizes.