

THERE IS A FUTURE

Can teenagers persuade younger children to make positive choices in life? **"YES!"** say the teens and adults who work together in the **MOOSE YOUTH AWARENESS PROGRAM**. For the past 37 years, we have organized high school students into a highly effective speakers' bureau with the goal of educating preschool and elementary school-aged children on a variety of topics, including drug and alcohol abuse, child abuse, "stranger danger", bullying and peer pressure, and healthy habits and nutrition.

More than 1,000 energetic teens gathered last year at State and Provincial Moose Association Youth Awareness Congresses throughout the United States and Canada. They listened to guest speakers, exchanged ideas and used their creativity to help themselves and others to deal with adverse elements in their own communities. Several students drew from their own personal experiences in determining how they could assist in preventing future tragedies. Some of the students that attended these State/Provincial Congresses were already leaders in school or community youth programs; others became leaders as a result of the knowledge and experience they gained because they attended.



At Association Youth Awareness Congresses, participants focus on creating **Moose KidsTalks**, which are presentations to be given to K - 6th grade children in their communities. Adults may provide

information and inspiration,

but the ideas for the students' KidsTalks are all their own. They develop ways to empower children to make healthy choices or to resist danger, and they go home determined to put them into practice.

The best part of Moose KidsTalks is the lengths to which the teenagers will extend their creativity. Some use costumes and take on alternate personas; others use props, pictures, puppets or coloring books; still others use skits or games to add audience participation to their presentations. As their experience as a presenter grows, so too does their ability to keep the children engaged.

Each student's sponsoring Moose Lodge and/or Women of the Moose Chapter are asked to assist participants in making arrangements to present Moose KidsTalks to groups of young children in the community.

**STOP
BULLYING**

THEY ARE THE FUTURE

Each year, local Moose Lodge representatives ask high school officials across North America to recommend two high school students to State/Provincial Association Youth Awareness Congresses, which are held in August, September and October each year.

Students are selected based on academic achievement



and leadership qualities. Those who attend an Association Youth Awareness Congress are asked to create a Moose KidsTalks presentation by selecting a topic and developing a presentation around that topic. They are then asked to find opportunities, with the assistance of their sponsoring Moose Lodges and/or Women of the Moose Chapters, to speak to groups of K - 6th grade children. There are numerous sources for potential audiences: scouting units, elementary schools, day care centers, Sunday School classes, Boys' and Girls' Clubs and YMCA youth programs just to name a few. Each student is asked to present a minimum of three (3) Moose KidsTalks between the end of the Association Youth Awareness Congress and November 15, 2024. They are also asked to complete written reports on their presentations and submit them to their respective Association Youth Awareness Chairman.

In late April each year, approximately 60 students, who attended Association Youth Awareness Congresses and completed the minimum of three (3) Moose KidsTalks presentations, are selected by their peers to attend the International Youth Awareness Congress. The 2025 International Youth Awareness Congress will be held in Rapid City, SD from April 24 - April 28, 2025. At the conclusion of the International Congress, five students will be selected by the attendees to receive scholarships. The awards are:

- 1st Place – \$12,000 Bob Neff Scholarship
- 2nd Place – \$8,000
- 3rd Place – \$6,000
- 4th Place – \$5,000
- 5th Place – \$4,000

International Youth Awareness Congress Scholarships are funded by the Moose Legion – The Degree of Service



THE FUTURE IS NOW

The Moose Youth Awareness Program has a bright future. Through Moose KidsTalks presentations, our participants can educate the youth of their communities to make wise decisions and to avoid adverse situations. They can also motivate and inspire. In fact, the voices of those students that have attended Association and International Youth Awareness Congresses during the last 37 years have reached an audience of more than 820,000.



Our Lodges, Chapters, Moose Legions and State/Provincial Moose Associations also support many other outstanding programs that benefit children. Our fraternal leaders are dedicated to this most worthwhile program that affects youth all over North America. The Moose Youth Awareness Program reaffirms our commitment to providing today for a better tomorrow.

The future rests in the hands, hearts and minds of our children. Without a doubt, members of the The Moose and The Women of the Moose will continue to provide assistance to make our communities a better place for families to live and for children to grow.



Friendship Salad Recipe

- 1 can of listening ears
- 1 can of sharing
- 1 tub of sweet words
- 1 can of teamwork
- 1 can of honesty
- NO ROTTEN BANANAS



2025 International Youth Awareness Congress



2024 International Youth Awareness Congress Winners



1st Place
Quang Ho
(California)
\$12,000.00



2nd Place
Ivy Lin
(Virginia)
\$8,000.00



3rd Place
Kamal Haddad
(California)
\$5,000.00



4th Place
Malayna Waine
(Oregon)
\$3,000.00



5th Place
Baltazar Avila
(Arizona)
\$2,000.00

2024 INTERNATIONAL YOUTH AWARENESS



Having fun together...



...while exchanging ideas



...and reaching solutions.

Activities & Heart of the Community Department
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DAKOTA MOOSE
2025 INTERNATIONAL YOUTH AWARENESS CONGRESS
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA
APRIL 24-28, 2025

2025



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