

Make a Difference in Preventing Underage Drinking

Studies reveal the long-term negative consequences of underage drinking. Many teens say that private residences are the number one place to get and consume alcohol. The Social Host Ordinance was enacted as a tool for law enforcement to reduce the incidents of underage drinking at parties in private homes by holding the adult host of the party responsible for providing alcohol to minors. Adoption of this law was recommended to Town Council by the Yucca Valley Youth Commission.



Youth Commission 2011-2012 Term



The Yucca Valley Youth Commission was established in 1995 to serve as an advisory group to provide recommendations on youth related issues in Yucca Valley. This appointed group enhances the quality of life for Yucca Valley teens by advising the Town Council and the public on issues relating to youth policies, programs and opportunities.



TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY YOUTH COMMISSION

57090 Twentynine Palms Highway
Yucca Valley, CA 92284
(760) 369-7207
www.yucca-valley.org

 Visit us on Facebook!

TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY
YOUTH COMMISSION

Social Host Ordinance

Information for Parents and
Residents



Help our teens enjoy fun, safe,
and sober parties!

Social Host Ordinance: Municipal Code Chapter 6.10

The purpose of the Social Host Ordinance is to help deter the consumption of alcohol and illegal substances by minors. The strategy is to hold the host of a party accountable when teens are consuming alcohol or using illegal substances on their property. The Town Attorney and San Bernardino County Sheriff are authorized to administer and enforce this law, which includes criminal, civil and/or administrative citations and penalties.



A link to the full text of the ordinance and Frequently Asked Questions can be found on the Youth Commission's page of the Town of Yucca Valley website at:

www.yucca-valley.org

Get the Party Started!

You can plan a safe and fun party for your teen and their friends. Here are some ideas to keep in mind as you organize your party.

Establish Ground Rules: Make your expectations known, especially regarding number of guests and ending time. Be clear and consistent about your no-tolerance policy for alcohol and drugs, and decide how you will handle violations.

Decide on Logistics: If you don't have a large home or backyard, consider renting a venue. Discuss whether "friends of friends" will be welcome if they did not receive invitations.

Review the Details: Whether your kids spread the word via Facebook, online service, or tradition invitations, double-check the information for accuracy and appropriate language.

Be Specific: Include start and finish times on the invitation. Indicate the presence of chaperones and provide your phone number.

Create a Contact List: When kids RSVP, ask for a parent's phone number. Compile a list of contact information in case of problems or emergencies.

Recruit Chaperones: You are legally responsible for what happens at the party, so make sure to have adults that you trust in attendance.

Meet the Parents: Whenever possible, connect directly with parents as they drop off their kids, and try to add missing contact numbers to your list. Ask parents how their kids will be getting home.

Let Your Kids DJ: You may not like the music but it's their party, and you have more important things to worry about, so consider compromising here.

Feed the Beasts: Keep it simple: pizza, chips, pretzels, soda, cookies. Avoid food that requires plates or utensils. Remember to provide trash receptacles throughout the space.

Make the Rounds: Chaperones should take turns checking out dark corners and outside areas and try to maintain a PG-13 rating. If you see something suspicious, discreetly talk to the kids in question. If need be, ask them to leave and contact their parents.

Continue Supervising When the Party Ends: Use the contact list if kids are not picked up as planned.

Connect While Cleaning: After everyone has left, chat with your teen about the highlights of the party. Ask what went well or what could have been better.

(Party suggestions from Julie Metz, familycircle.com)

It's the Law for a Reason

Over 90% of teens say that "home" is the number one place to get and consume alcohol. Hosting at home doesn't lessen the dangers. Underage drinking is a major public health issue and cause for concern.