

As a Young Marine, you are expected to live a drug-free lifestyle. This means in addition to you not putting things in your body, you are expected to stay away from others that do these things. Hanging around with those that use these drugs is as bad as using them yourself. You can help your friends to get away from these habits by providing them with information about the dangers of drug use. Become a role-model to your friends just as you have for your fellow Young Marines.

Young Marine Units are required to provide a minimum of three (3) hours of drug prevention/ drug resistance instruction each quarter (every three months) each operating year. In other words, a total of 12 hours of DDR training every year.

The Young Marine program teaches about the dangers of both illegal and legal drugs. Illegal drugs include marijuana, cocaine / crack, inhalants, hallucinogens, methamphetamine, club drugs, and many others. Legal drugs include alcohol, tobacco, prescription medications, and marijuana.

Drugs are dangerous for growing bodies and developing brains. You will learn more about these dangers in future DDR classes.

Tips for saying no to drugs:

1. Just say “No.”
2. Say “No Thanks.”
3. If asked again, keep saying “No.”
4. Walk away.
5. Change the subject.
6. Avoid the situation.
7. Ignore the question.
8. Hang around with non-users.

Red Ribbon Week is an annual national observance that occurs from Oct. 23-31, raising public awareness and mobilizing communities to combat drug, alcohol, and tobacco use. Red Ribbon Week began in 1988 to honor DEA Agent named Enrique “Kiki” Camarena who was working to keep drugs out of America when he was killed by drug dealers. What “Kiki” wanted most of all was to keep children and families safe. We honor the memory of this American Hero and others like him by making healthy choices every day and helping our friends do the same. 80 million people participate in Red Ribbon activities each year.

The SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FULCRUM SHIELD AWARD is presented annually to the best youth-based program that is affiliated with a U.S. Military Service, the National Guard, Defense Agencies or Field Activity. The award was established by the Department of Defense (DOD) as a means of recognizing youth organizations affiliated with the military that have made recognizable strides in spreading the anti-drug message throughout their communities. This award is named in honor of the five military personnel from Fort Bliss, Texas who were killed in an aircraft accident in 1999 while on a counter-drug reconnaissance mission in Columbia.