



## **Continue Engaging Your YAC Amid School Closures**

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These days we're all having to re-think how we live and how we work. We want you to know we're thinking and re-thinking right along with you. We wanted to share with all of you what we've learned about engaging and leading your YAC in the midst of these unprecedented times. We know it's difficult when you are tasked with facilitating YAC meetings and then told you can't physically meet. Some of you didn't let that stop you and jumped right away into thinking, "How can I meet virtually with my YAC?" I turned to Google to see what free platforms/resources/ideas were out there. Zoom looks to be an excellent free platform, or if you have a little budget, you can upgrade to use additional Zoom features. For a monthly fee GoToMeetings or Join.Me can work well too. If you are unfamiliar with Zoom, check out some great tutorials at <https://www.teachertrainingvideos.com/>. You can share your screen, use a PowerPoint, show a video, or use your cameras so your YAC can see you and each other.

Fast forward to your first virtual meeting. How do you keep your YAC members interested/engaged and working together on projects? You could:

- take them on a short virtual field trip to the Georgia Aquarium or the San Diego Zoo.
- conduct brain teasers and icebreakers such as a word search, scavenger hunt by developing some questions based upon information you find on a trusted website, or Choose Your Favorite where you show a list of items and your members put a dot of their color choice by one or more items.
- have them collaborate/brainstorm virtual events for National Prevention Week like a themed virtual run/walk/bike race or a virtual health fair.
- create a Facebook Live event and interview a dean, principal, youth worker, etc. and talk about ways to stay drug-free.
- take advantage of toolkits, activity ideas, and classroom lessons on teens and drugs located on NIDA's website, <https://teens.drugabuse.gov/national-drug-alcohol-facts-week>.
- share videos from websites such as <https://teens.drugabuse.gov/teens/videos> or [https://www.stopalcoholabuse.gov/videos/2017\\_SowingSeedSPrevention.aspx](https://www.stopalcoholabuse.gov/videos/2017_SowingSeedSPrevention.aspx) or a webinar from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CeJ6l8tF-wM&feature=youtu.be>.
- have your YAC develop and record a webinar or a video to share on social media.
- even take a virtual YouTube karate class together.

There is also an attachment called Ideas for Effective Communication in Virtual Meetings so, check it out.

These are just a few ideas and, I'm sure a lot of you have some really great ideas to share. We're looking forward to hearing from **you**. We're thinking and re-thinking with you about the work of prevention. Remember: We're all in this together.

Funded in whole or in part by the Illinois Department of Human Services,  
Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery through a grant  
from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.