



## STRONG KIDS, READY FOR THE FUTURE

**THE DRUG EDUCATION FOR YOUTH (DEFY) PROGRAM** is a yearlong, locally sponsored and operated program designed to **improve youth resiliency and strength** and to **empower youth to build positive healthy lifestyles** as drug-free, successful citizens. In addition, it's FUN!

DEFY is a substance misuse prevention and comprehensive life skills program for participants ages 9-12. DEFY deters "at-risk" behaviors by developing positive social skills and giving program participants the tools needed to resist drugs, alcohol and other negative behaviors. The leadership and life skills training provided by DEFY includes goal-setting, team-building, conflict resolution and decision-making.

DEFY is a structured five day residential or eight day non-residential camp environment conducted during the summer followed by monthly mentoring events. Program participants engage in educational trips and participate in DEFY's Fitness Challenge. Aside from the education and training the participants receive, DEFY provides participants an opportunity to interact with adult mentors and staff to enhance the effectiveness of mentoring events.

Mentoring events are designed to reinforce the concepts and training received during the camp environment. During the school year, mentors and staff provide positive support during group mentoring sessions and interactive workshops. Local DEFY sites also participate in activities that promote civic responsibility and expose DEFY participants to vocational and recreational opportunities.

Mentoring is the backbone of the DEFY Program. Mentors do not replace parents, but provide youths interaction with positive adult role models. Mentoring is hard work and requires a solid commitment. DEFY is no vacation, as any DEFY volunteer will tell you, but is well worth it!

Volunteers willing to invest their time and effort in the future of our nation's youth are key to DEFY's success. Adult staff, mentors, and volunteers have made an indelible impact on the participants and are essential to the success of program participants.



Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Thomas Spurduto, DVIDs



Photo by P Petty Officer 2nd Class Samuel Weldin, DVIDs



Photo by P Petty Officer 2nd Class Samuel Weldin, DVIDs

**For more information and to contact the local program coordinator in your area call (901) 874-3300.**



BROUGHT TO YOU BY:  
**CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE 2.0**



**Visit our website !**

