

## Tobacco-Free Schools Girl Scout Troop Project Proposal

Are you looking for a truly meaningful troop project this year? Is your troop ready for a wonderfully dynamic challenge? If so, the North Georgia Health Department wants to partner with you on a CDC funded health project that will impact thousands of lives in Cherokee County!

In Georgia alone, over 11,500 lives are lost each year due to tobacco use, and over 240,000 kids today in Georgia will die at some point from tobacco-related illnesses if something is not done. That is why we of the North Georgia Health District, part of the Georgia Department of Public Health, want to ensure that all our school districts, including Cherokee County, adopt a Georgia Model 100% Tobacco-Free Schools Policy. While the Cherokee County School District has a very thorough policy in place that bans the use of tobacco for students, nothing in the policy addresses tobacco-usage for adults, including staff and visitors. A Georgia Model 100% Tobacco-Free Schools Policy, as developed by the Georgia Department of Public Health and the CDC, means there can be no use of tobacco by ANYONE, ANYWHERE at ANYTIME on school property or at school events on or off campus. This ban includes all tobacco-related products such as cigarettes, chew tobacco, electronic cigarettes/devices and items that display tobacco imagery.

Over half the school districts in Georgia have now adopted such a policy and are recognized as Georgia Model 100% Tobacco-Free Schools. Our goal is to see that the Cherokee County School District becomes one of them. Would your troop be up to the task of joining us in this goal?

Such a partnership would cost your Girl Scout troop absolutely nothing but the benefits they would gain would be phenomenal. Through this project, troop members would have the satisfaction of knowing they have powerfully impacted thousands of lives in their community, now and for many years to come. The project would provide the troop interesting tobacco-free education, fun activities and a wonderful public presentation opportunity. Plus, the troop would receive broad recognition and publicity for their efforts via awards, uniform insignia, tobacco-free-signs, social media, broadcast media and for starring in a cool radio ad promoting the Georgia Tobacco Quit Line!

This type partnership works. Just this past school year, Girl Scout Brownie Troop 12617 in Dalton partnered with us in a similar project that resulted in the passage of a Georgia Model 100% Tobacco-Free Schools Policy by the Whitfield County School Board! Please click here to read all about it and be sure to scroll to the bottom of the page to click on the links to the troop's board of health presentation and to their radio ad:

<http://www.nghd.org/Media-Releases/local-girl-scout-brownie-troop-praised-for-outstanding-tobacco-free-initiatives.html>

Our project together would follow these steps as were included in the successful partnership with Girl Scout Brownie Troop 12617:

- 1 - Hazards of tobacco-use and secondhand smoke education would be provided to the troop by the North Georgia Health District at a regular troop meeting(s).

- 2 - A 100% tobacco-free schools policy petition letter, along with signed tobacco-free pledges by troop members, would be sent to the school superintendent and/or board of education.
- 3 - It would be arranged for the troop to attend a board of education meeting and provide a short 100% tobacco-free schools policy presentation.
- 3 - Troop members would be assisted by troop leaders and the North Georgia Health District in scripting the 100% tobacco-free schools policy presentation to the board of education
- 4 - As only a brief part of regular troop meetings, troop members would practice the board of education presentation.
- 5 - Troop members would be assisted by troop leaders and the North Georgia Health District to write and perform in a local radio ad promoting the Georgia Tobacco Quit Line.
- 6 - Once the troop has provided the board of education presentation and the board adopts the 100% tobacco-free schools presentation, the troop will present awards to board members
- 7 - The troop will also receive individual awards, insignia, publicity and recognition for their efforts whether the policy is passed or not.

As you can see, a partnership between your Girl Scout troop and the North Georgia Health District on the Georgia Model 100% Tobacco-Free Schools Policy project would be a win-win collaboration, not only for the troop and the health district, but, most importantly, for the health of the residents of Cherokee County! Please note the attached form and consider joining us in this important endeavor. If you are interested in this project and feel your troop would be suited to the challenge, please complete the form and forward it to:

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Thank you!

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