



Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE)

On a Friday evening in 1989, Alex Orange, a senior at West Charlotte High School, was killed while trying to break up a fight during an afterschool party. The following Monday, his school friends organized a volunteer group against violence in his memory, *Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE)*. In 15 years, it has expanded its membership to more than 167,000 elementary, middle, high school and college students, as well as community organizations serving 1,500 chapters in 44 states and four countries.

Vision

Schools and communities will be safer and more secure, free of fear, and conducive to learning as a result of students being actively involved in meaningful violence prevention efforts.

Goals

- Engages students in meaningful violence prevention efforts within their school and community by changing the climate in attitudes and perceptions. It helps teach students:
 1. Ways to deal with their anger and
 2. Ways to discover the real root of their anger
- Empowers youth with knowledge and skills necessary to provide service to their community and school, and helps to promote non-violence.
- Encourages positive peer influences within the school and community through violence prevention efforts, such as learning how to solve conflicts without resorting to violence.
- Educates students about the effects and consequences of violence as well as safe activities for students, parents, and the community.

Mission

- Establish student interest through “reality-checks.”
 - Students are asked to define their school neighborhood as a community, not as a gang area.
- Have student initiated SAVE groups that are student run with student volunteers.
- Have students held accountable for the solution.

In a recent survey, middle school students were asked whether they felt safe to and from school and safe in their neighborhood park. Only 20 percent answered yes. Almost 100 percent felt they were responsible for making themselves feel safe at school and in their neighborhoods. San Diego City Schools (SDCS) Police initiated “It’s OKAY to Tell” to help students understand they can be part of the solution by reporting suspected violence at their schools and neighborhoods.

SDCS Police Services have helped organize SAVE chapters at Knox Elementary, O’Farrell, Keiller, Bell Jr. and Gompers. The Gompers Middle School Chapter will celebrate National Youth Violence Prevention Week on April 4 – 8, 2005. A student SAVE rally will be held on Friday, April 8, 2005 at Lincoln High School.

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Serving nearly 136,000 students, San Diego City Schools is the second largest school district in California, with 202 educational facilities and more than 14,500 full-time equivalent positions (representing more than 15,800 employees). SDCS is improving student achievement by focusing on challenging instruction in reading, writing and mathematics in pre-kindergarten through Grade 12. The district is committed to supporting schools and enhancing the classroom learning environment through modernized facilities and resources and through parent, teacher and community involvement in the educational process.

**The mission of San Diego City Schools is to improve student achievement
by supporting teaching and learning in the classroom.**

SUMMARY

- ❖ **SDCS Police have one goal: to establish a student-run SAVE in EVERY school within the district.**
- ❖ **SDCS Police will help establish a SAVE by training the students to run their own group.**
- ❖ **Get involved. Be part of the solution, not the problem.**
- ❖ **Students need to take back their neighborhoods. Be safe.**
- ❖ **Ask students to help write the Safe School Plan.**
- ❖ **The national SAVE colors are orange and purple. Orange to represent Alex’ family name and purple as the universal color for nonviolence and peace.**
- ❖ **To start your own school SAVE, contact the SDCS Police Services (619) 725-7000 or the national SAVE office (866) 343-SAVE or the website www.nationalsave.org.**