



Gambling-Free Event

Whereas, recent research indicates that among New York State youth between the ages of 12 and 17, 39.5% have gambled in the past year. Nearly 30% of those youth stated that they began at age 10 or younger. NYS Youth who gamble reported higher past 30-day rates of alcohol use, marijuana use, consumption of energy drinks and incidents of being drunk than non-gamblers (OASAS, 2018).

Whereas, it is known that the younger an adolescent begins gambling, the more likely he/she is to develop a gambling addiction;

Whereas, underage gambling brings with it a number of negative consequences, many of which are serious, and can be devastating to the youth as well as his/her family and friends, including:

- Increased risk of delinquency and crime,
- Damaged relationships,
- Poor academic performance (Wayne, 1996),
- Increased likelihood of developing mental health issues including depression and alcohol/substance abuse disorders (Hardoon, 2002),
- Attempted suicide (Gupta, 1998), and
- Overall poor general health (Potenza, 2002);

Whereas, decreasing youth access to gambling activities is shown to decrease the prevalence of underage gambling, and in turn, to decrease the rates of problem gambling in a community (Messerlian, 2005);

Therefore, the organization (stated below) has decided that the event (stated below) will be gambling-free in an effort to protect the youth of our community.

Name of Event

Date of Event

Name of Supporting Organization

County

Authorized Signature

Date

Est. # Youth Affected