

Our Mission

To provide commanders with a drug demand reduction program that facilitates and enhances family readiness to promote mission accomplishment. The program develops youths through drug education, leadership and character development, positive role model mentoring, and community outreach to enhance the quality of life of military personnel and their families.

OUR MOTTO

Strong children...Strong families...for
a Ready Future.



DEFY
Drug Education for Youth



Personnel

COMMAND STAFF

Provost Marshal
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DEFY STAFF

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Contact for Youth & Staff Applications

SUMMER CAMP
MILITARY and DoD
Children – Ages 9-12

What is DEFY

Drug Education for Youth (DEFY) is a self-esteem building program that provides kids with the tools they need to resist drugs, gangs, and alcohol.

DEFY is sponsored by the local command and is restricted to youth ages 9-12 from military families. A two-phase program, DEFY begins in the summer with an eight-day non-residential camp program. This challenging, fun-filled camp is followed by a year of mentoring.

Most participants gain a great deal from the DEFY experience. They make lasting friendships and learn a lot about themselves.

DEFY focuses on building youngsters' self-image and setting goals. It stresses interpersonal relations and emphasizes leadership and teamwork. Along the way it raises awareness of the harmful effects of alcohol and other drugs, as well as the dangerous effects of peer pressure and joining gangs. The structured curriculum offers education, skill development, and physical fitness. DEFY is all about creating positive experiences so that kids will choose healthy alternatives instead of substance abuse and gang involvement.

In essence, the DEFY program provides leadership to kids and thereby strengthens our military communities.

What is special about DEFY?

Unlike most programs, DEFY combines elements from many different youth programs, including physical fitness, educational trips, self-esteem and peer leadership development, decision-making, drug resistance, and a formal graduation. We believe this intensive Phase I approach is the most effective way to initially influence positive attitudes in youth. More importantly, DEFY offers a year-long follow-up to Phase I which emphasizes small group mentoring/role modeling and special events and workshops which continue to build on the lessons of Phase I. DEFY is also unique in that it utilizes existing Navy, Marine Corps and community facilities and resources.

What does it cost the parent/guardian?

There is no cost to the parent/guardian for their child to participate in any DEFY activities. Each child receives a youth workbook, backpack, ball cap, water bottle and T-shirts, as well as two snacks and full lunch every day. Children are required to wear tennis shoes because of physical activities.

Who are the members of the DEFY staff?

The DEFY staff are all affiliated with the military in some respect. They are primarily active duty personnel, but also include reservists, DoD civilians, DoD spouses, and retired persons. They are all screened carefully and go through a background check.

What is covered in the curriculum?

- Cultural Connections
- Self-Esteem
- Relationship
- Gang Resistance
- Nutrition
- Leadership
- Physical Fitness
- Conflict Solving
- Personal Safety
- Safe Kids
- Goal Setting
- Study Skills
- Community Service

What about field trips?

We take the kids on educational and fun trips to places like Nauticus, Virginia Marine and Science Museum, Botanical Gardens, Children's Museum, bowling, swimming, skating, and even tour local universities.