

WHAT IS COBB SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS/SAFE HOMES?

Cobb Safe Neighborhoods/Safe Homes is a Campaign offering an opportunity for neighborhood associations, community organizations and residents to help provide safer environments for youth, families and communities. It uses a tried and tested grassroots approach for sharing information, resources and building consensus to support common sense safety measures.

It doesn't require a commitment of time or extra effort for residents and already busy families. It provides an opportunity for a network of people to publicly agree to follow some simple yet effective safety principles. It outlines steps that will encourage and support safe environments for youth, creating safe neighborhoods and safe homes, and deterring the "social hosting" of underage drinking parties and/or gatherings.

It requires a neighborhood association or community organization to share and collect information among its' membership, once each year. Orientation, materials, and phone/email support are all available.

There are **3** components:

- 1. Partnership Agreements** – The Neighborhood Association or Community Organization, agrees to partner with the Cobb Alcohol Taskforce to help prevent underage youth social access to alcohol in and on members' homes and property. An authorized representative signs the appropriate Agreement Form, publicly stating the association or organization agrees to follow simple principles and steps to encourage and support safe community behaviors of its' members. Partners further assist by sharing information, collecting signed Safe Homes Agreements and reporting the number of Agreements collected to the Cobb Alcohol Taskforce annually.
- 2. Safe Homes Agreement** – Individual residents, homeowners or renters, sign this Agreement Form, publicly agreeing to follow simple principles and steps to help keep neighborhood youth and the community safe. Busy families will not be asked to volunteer, attend additional meetings, nor complete any other work besides becoming educated about the issue and honoring the Agreement.
- 3. Information Material** – Included in the Cobb Safe Neighborhoods/Safe Homes materials, along with a copy of each of the Agreement Forms, is information that can help residents assess their attitudes and beliefs about underage drinking and social host liability, education, enforcement and advocacy resources, safe teen party hosting tips, flyers, brochures and support materials for neighborhood and organization partners.

Neighborhood Benefits – Community recognition will be awarded to eligible partners annually. Partners collecting a certain number of Safe Homes Agreements and reporting number/percent of Safe Home participants to the Cobb Alcohol Taskforce will be eligible for consideration.

Resident Benefits – Limits risks and liabilities associated with hosting underage drinking parties. Limits youths' risks and consequences associated with underage drinking. Self satisfaction that comes from knowing your participation has challenged unhelpful adult attitudes, beliefs and behaviors, and that you have contributed to neighborhood safety and community efforts to successfully deter dangerous underage drinking parties. Opportunity to register on-line to receive three electronic newsletters annually, with issue updates, safety tips, and reports from the field.

For more information: www.cobbat.org/safehomes • 404.409.9112

