

Delaware General Health District
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NEWS RELEASE

DELAWARE COUNTY YOUTHS CHALK UP SMOKE FREE LIFESTYLES FOR GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DELAWARE, Oh., Nov. 18, 2010 – Students at four Delaware County high schools planned to chalk up their support for healthy lifestyles today in observance of the 35th Great American Smokeout.

Teen-agers in Delaware County's STAND UP Leadership Team planned to adorn sidewalks with chalk messages encouraging their peers and adults to never smoke or, in case they have started, to kick the habit.

The chalk messengers' work is to be under foot today and/or Friday outside Delaware Hayes, Buckeye Valley, and Olentangy Liberty high schools. The youths have backup plans to put their messages on posters in case of rain.

Meanwhile, the leader of the Tobacco Free Delaware County Coalition was slated to be among the speakers at a statewide celebration for Ohio's status as a smoke-free state. Coalition Chairman Len Fisher of Orange Township was invited to address the gathering in Columbus on the fifth anniversary of the submission of petition signatures which led to voter enactment of Ohio's Smoke Free Workplace law.

Fisher was the state's top signature gatherer in the drive to get the proposed law before voters. The smoke-free law got 69 percent support in Delaware County, the highest percentage in Ohio.

Delaware Countians collectively demonstrated their commitment to health again earlier this year when they were ranked the healthiest county population in Ohio. That ranking noted Delaware County has the third lowest smoking rate – 16 percent – among Ohio's 88 counties.

The American Cancer Society promotes the Great American Smokeout every year to combat the leading cause of cancer. Smokers are much more likely than nonsmokers to get cancer and other chronic diseases and suffer premature death.

Smokers are encouraged to call the toll-free Ohio Tobacco Quit Line, 1-800-QUIT NOW, to get expert help to kick the habit.