



Youth Voices...  
Grown-Up Choices!

Students Against  
Violence Everywhere



## THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STUDENTS AGAINST VIOLENCE EVERYWHERE (SAVE),

a nonprofit organization, is dedicated to providing students with the information and resources necessary to make a positive difference in safety efforts in schools and communities. The National Association of SAVE serves as the national clearing house for SAVE materials; provides training and technical assistance; coordinates the chapters across the country; sponsors a national youth summit; and works with students, counselors, teachers, administrators, law-enforcement and community agencies to establish and maintain SAVE chapters. Together we will make a positive difference and ensure that all students will attend a school that is safe and secure, free of fear and conducive to learning.

### 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.



### MISSION

The National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE), Inc. is a nonprofit organization striving to decrease the potential for violence in schools and communities by promoting meaningful student involvement, education and service opportunities in efforts to provide safer environments for youth.

**National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere**

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# Youth Voices ... Grown-up Choices !



**t**hrough a cadre of volunteers and the resourcefulness of **student members**, SAVE chapters are growing and making a positive difference across the nation. SAVE is a unique and **powerful** approach to youth safety because it recognizes the role that young people can take in making schools and communities safer. Because SAVE chapters are established and operated by students, the **opportunity** to spread the message of **nonviolence** to young people and their communities is enhanced when SAVE chapters exist. Focusing on crime prevention, conflict management and service projects, SAVE students are providing **positive peer influences** in violence prevention efforts.

## SAVE

**Engages** students in meaningful violence prevention efforts within their school and community.

**Empowers** youth with knowledge and skills necessary to provide service to their community and school.

**Encourages** positive peer influences within the school and community through violence prevention efforts.

**Educates** students about the effects and consequences of violence as well as safe activities for students, parents, and the community.

# HISTORY

Since 1989 SAVE has been successfully implemented in urban, suburban, and rural schools, juvenile justice facilities, and community-based settings.

In April of 1989, over 200 students from West Charlotte Senior High School gathered at a party. A carload of young men from a rival school showed up armed and looking for trouble. As teens panicked, 17-year-old Alex Orange stepped forward. Alex, a fullback on the West Charlotte football team, was a young man who looked out for other people. Alex told the intruders this was no place for violence. Sadly, shots were fired and Alex fell to the floor. Surrounded by shaken friends and schoolmates, Alex lost his life at the hand of violence.

Alex could have been just another statistic. But the following Monday morning, grieving students refused to let that happen. A special friend, Angela Bynum, a special teacher, Gary Weart, and Alex's classmates did not want him to become just another statistic. Angie and Gary called a meeting in the cafeteria. They were overwhelmed to see the 200 students gathered with a vow to organize against violence in Alex's memory. The group formed Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE).

The SAVE message spread rapidly and soon students were forming chapters from coast to coast and even in other nations. It was realized that in order to make a more lasting difference, SAVE needed to be introduced to students earlier in life. High school and middle school chapters began visiting elementary schools to spread the SAVE message and provide students with alternatives to violence.



**“I think it takes children to talk to children. Evidently, we’ve made a mess of things, and it’s going to take young people to straighten it out. SAVE is one of the most honorable clubs you can belong to, because it’s about saving young people.”**  
~ Dawne Orange, Alex’s mother.

# F.A.Q.'s about SAVE

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## what types of activities does SAVE sponsor?

Members participate in numerous activities including crime prevention activities, conflict management, SAVE week, service projects, violence prevention rallies, teen safe driving summits, nonviolence pledge drives, and fund-raisers. They also speak to students at other schools or settings, serve on their school safety committee, attend the annual SAVE Summit, serve as a SAVE Youth Advisory Board member, and advocate for nonviolence everywhere.

## how often do chapters meet?

The SAVE approach in elementary schools integrates school safety information, knowledge and skills throughout the current course of study each day. At the middle and high school levels, the approach is through clubs which can meet before, during or after school hours. Chapters can meet monthly, bi-weekly, weekly or as often as needed.



## should we use SAVE as a club or in the classroom?

**Club** meetings educate students about violence, its causes, and its consequences. Students learn about alternatives to violence and practice what they learn through school and community service projects. As they participate in activities, students learn conflict management skills and mediation skills, and the virtues of good citizenship, civility and nonviolence. Chapters can utilize the lessons in the SAVE Essentials Manual for focus activities in their meetings. By bringing in outside resource people as guest speakers, they gain valuable knowledge about their community and prevention efforts. Many SAVE chapters visit other schools to deliver a message of nonviolence. **Classroom.** SAVE activities in the classroom are usually a part of the regular curriculum of the school day. These activities integrate knowledge and skills from language arts, social studies, science, mathematics, arts, and guidance. If the school has a character education trait of the month program, the SAVE lessons can help to enhance this program.



## who can be an advisor?

A teacher, school counselor, social worker, parent, school resource officer, or any interested adult approved by the school or community group can be an advisor.



## where is SAVE used?

Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) can be modified to suit the needs of school and community groups. The SAVE Essentials Manual offers step-by-step procedures for the implementation of SAVE as a chapter or into a total school or classroom setting. SAVE is currently being implemented in elementary, middle and high schools, on college campuses, in youth-serving organizations, at community centers, and in faith-based organizations.

### Elementary School

Young students at the elementary level are primarily engaged in the educational component of the SAVE program. Classroom teachers, assistants, parent volunteers, mentors, or older SAVE students teach lesson plans from the SAVE Essentials Manual to entire classes or grades within the school. Conflict management is one of the more popular Essential Elements focused on at this level. For primary grade level students, there is the Ernie the Elephant Coloring Book series designed by students. Ernie helps young students learn about weapons safety, communication, and respect towards others. Service projects are conducted at the elementary level either by a class, grade level, or the entire school. Such projects have included: collecting canned food, creating posters or drawings with nonviolent themes and displaying them in their school and community, or establishing a peer mediation program involving students to aid in conflicts with their peers and younger students.



### Middle School

With students progressing into adolescence comes new challenges within their young lives and within their school. Many SAVE chapters at the middle school level expand upon the Conflict Management Essential Element adding in educational lesson plans from the SAVE Essentials Manual on “Bullying Prevention”, “How to be a Good Listener”, as well as continuing or establishing peer mediation programs. Crime Prevention lesson plans also become more of a focus as young teens are faced with many difficult decisions and are more susceptible than any other segment of the population to be victimized by crime. To some degree these lesson plans are infused in the classroom setting, but often times SAVE has become a voluntary club in which students can choose to participate. Therefore, these topics and lesson plans may be covered during meetings. Service projects become more advanced in planning and purpose, but often still involve the entire school, specific class or grade level. Examples of service projects at the middle school level include school or community beautification projects, hosting blood drives, or taking on a local school or community problem, such as vandalism or theft, and conducting awareness campaigns.

## High School

At the high school level, teens are well on their way to becoming responsible, young citizens. Typically SAVE is established as an extracurricular club in which students choose to participate. High school SAVE chapters are very involved in the service project element of the program, and traditionally outreach to their peers in awareness activities, rallies, and pledge signings for nonviolence. These events aid in establishing chapter members as positive role models for others. Issues at this level are quite diverse ranging from physical and verbal assaults, relationship violence, bullying and harassment, and teen driving safety to substance abuse related problems. SAVE chapters assess the needs and issues of their school and community and address them in their chapter activities and projects. Many high school students involved in SAVE often reach beyond their school level and present information, skits and role plays to youth at elementary and middle school levels. Service projects at the high school level include: conducting peer surveys on school and community safety concerns and publicizing these to their peers, family, and community members; hosting “stop the violence” concerts or jams with local musical or performing artists; or possibly even adopting a local shelter, family, or community center to aid or support.



## College Level

SAVE has much to offer for college campuses. As more and more young people become involved in SAVE at the K-12 level, it is natural for alumni to want to continue with the SAVE program in their collegiate years and beyond. SAVE has successfully been established as a recognized organization within student activity boards at community, public, and private colleges across the nation. Students seek a faculty advisor to aid them in their work of promoting personal safety, reducing violent crimes and victimization, underage drinking and contraband, as well as encouraging traditional violence prevention ideals as set forth by SAVE. Chapters typically meet in the evenings, once or twice per month, and establish service projects and awareness campaigns around how to stay safe on and around campus, as well as continuing to outreach to local schools and community-based organizations to mentor youth using violence prevention information. Ideas, guidelines, and tips on establishing a Collegiate SAVE chapter are available from the National Association of SAVE.

## Community Organizations

Many community-based organizations, faith-based settings, after-school programs, and community centers use SAVE and the SAVE Essentials Manual as key components to the work of their programs and activities. The messages of violence prevention through positive youth engaging activities and fun educational materials are appealing to leaders and organizers of many community organizations and programs. Recreational and educational clubs for youth, church youth groups, and law enforcement agency programs have used SAVE in their work. Since the SAVE Essentials Manual contains lesson plans for youth in grades K-12, the curriculum is perfect for programs serving youth of various ages.



## essential SAVE elements

Students Against Violence Everywhere has undertaken a triad approach for students working for empowerment and for safety in their schools and communities. The approach includes the three Essential Elements of crime prevention, conflict management, and service projects. Lesson plans and activities for all grade levels and settings are included for each of the three areas in the SAVE Essentials Manual. Guidelines for completing service projects are also included in the manual. Service projects can be utilized in all violence prevention related areas.

### Crime Prevention

SAVE is a program designed to involve and empower students to prevent violence. It is obvious that crime and violence are linked. Juvenile crime is not the only target of this element, but all crime in general. Juvenile victimization is an area of concern in SAVE chapters addressing crime related issues. Youth between the ages of 12 - 19 are victims of crime twice as often as any adult age group in the United States... including the elderly. SAVE encourages youth to learn where they are safe in their schools and communities and why it is important to have rules and laws. SAVE members learn to practice personal safety awareness and civic responsibility in crime prevention. Lesson plans in these areas are included in the SAVE Essentials Manual. Youth in SAVE are encouraged to coordinate and participate in service projects that aid in the prevention of crime. Examples include: painting over a graffiti-ridden area with messages of peace and safety, high school students teaching middle or elementary students the crime prevention lesson plans, or even advocating to their school board or city council for more crime/violence prevention programs.



### Conflict Management

Conflicts happen to everyone ... everywhere ... everyday. Unfortunately, often conflicts can escalate into violence and people are hurt or even killed ... many of these people are youth. SAVE works to promote the management of conflicts for the safety of everyone involved. Youth are taught that conflicts are a normal part of life, but that violence is not part of that normality. Conflicts can be useful if you are open and willing to learn from them! Realistically, though, not all conflicts can be resolved. Sometimes we have to agree to disagree. Therefore, using the term conflict "management" is important. The SAVE Essentials Manual has detailed lesson plans on managing conflicts between others, active listening skills, and even bullying prevention. Again, SAVE youth are encouraged to participate in service projects in and around the areas of conflict management. Examples of such projects include: teaching peers or younger students basic steps in managing conflicts – particularly those of mediation and holding a mock mediation or staged conflict scenarios to practice these skills, creating a conflict management guide sheet for distribution in your school or community, or even putting on skits or plays around conflict management.



## Service Projects

Learning by doing is a key component of SAVE. Empowering students to get involved in hands-on efforts to prevent violence is the most rewarding learning experience of SAVE. SAVE is a way for youth to get involved! The SAVE Essentials Manual has guidelines for creating a successful service project, as well as service project ideas. What is the difference between community service projects and service learning projects? Service projects are traditional projects of service to others, such as donating time to a local mission or soup kitchen or even holding a coat drive for the needy. Service learning projects put practical knowledge and information into action, such as in the areas of crime prevention or conflict management, in a service-oriented learning experience with an after-action reflection component. An example would be SAVE high school students who travel to a local middle school and teach 7<sup>th</sup> graders how to manage conflicts, then return to reflect on their service experience as it relates to the skills of conflict management they have learned.

## how has SAVE made a difference?

Evidence is building that SAVE is an effective program. Research conducted with SAVE chapters and advisors revealed that incidents of violence decreased in many schools, and the number of weapons brought into schools has been reduced as well. The beliefs and attitudes of students towards violence show positive improvement. Knowledge and skills of handling conflicts without violence were gained, and youth become better informed of ways to not only be safe, but also to make their schools and communities safer. As reported by the Evaluation Training Institute in Los Angeles, California, students who participate in SAVE demonstrate increased self-esteem and confidence, conflict resolution, presentation/public speaking, and knowledge about different violence prevention strategies. Advisors report that they successfully involve students in organizing and implementing community activities, meeting weekly as a club, and making people aware of the program. Principals believe that students who participate in the SAVE program play an important role in creating a safe campus and community by practicing nonviolence, possessing positive attitudes, and being good role-models.

A recent qualitative evaluation on SAVE's positive influences on the students and the school environment was conducted utilizing the CDC's Division of Adolescent and School Health School Health Index (SHI), which is an on-line interactive assessment tool that school team members completed in order to identify a safety or violence prevention area for improvement. SAVE chapter members successfully developed and implemented programs to improve these identified areas. Success was determined through student-written success stories, a tool designed to show a program's progress over time as well as its value and impact. These Success Stories reflected the efforts of SAVE students working to improve school connectedness, build respect, and establish a safer physical environment, as well as decreasing harassment and bullying at their schools.

**"I know I don't have to fight when someone makes me mad."**

- 4th grade SAVE Student

**"Bullying has decreased at our school; I can tell there is a big difference in student attitudes."**

- 8th grade SAVE Student

**"SAVE is the foundation for building a stronger community."**

- 12th grade SAVE Student



## additional SAVE materials.....

The SAVE Essentials Manual has been designed for use by adults and students interested in informing others about violence prevention efforts. The manual is not just a tool-kit for educators. The simplicity of the manual's design allows for students to use the tool-kit to obtain ideas for teaching peers or younger students. The manual is not only a source of lesson plans on violence prevention, but it is also a resource for those starting a SAVE chapter and those interested in maintaining success with the program. SAVE Essentials is applicable for all grade levels, K-12, with curricula ranging from conflict management and crime prevention activities to step-by-step guides for service projects.

## SAVE Essentials Manual

- The overall manual layout includes the following sections:
- ◆ Introduction to SAVE - Background, Goals and Objectives, Where to Use the Program
  - ◆ Setting Up Your Chapter - Sample Meeting Agendas, Meeting Ideas, Officer Roles
  - ◆ **Crime Prevention** - Lesson Plans for Crime Prevention
  - ◆ **Conflict Management** - Lesson Plans for Conflict Management
  - ◆ **Service Projects** - Lesson Plans, Activities, and Guidelines for starting and completing successful Service or Service Learning Projects
  - ◆ Tips for Working With the Media - Assistance for Students and Advisors
  - ◆ Information for Community Support and Fundraising - Suggestions and Guidelines for Obtaining In-kind and Financial Support for Chapter Activities
  - ◆ Ice Breaker and Team Building Activities - Activities for all ages to encourage working as a team and breaking down barriers
  - ◆ Activity Guide and Suggestions - Ideas for successfully celebrating National SAVE Day, National Youth Violence Prevention Week and National Safe Schools Week
  - ◆ Youth Voices DVD - Also included is a copy of the Youth Voices... Grown-Up Choices! DVD for an introduction to SAVE's history, essential elements and activities.

All activities and information are in a binder for you to use with your chapter. Activity handouts can be duplicated to use with your chapter and with students.

I believe in  
Students Against  
Violence Everywhere

**SAVE**

I believe words  
can solve my  
problems

I believe I can  
make a difference

I believe in being honest

I believe I can be a  
friend to anyone

I believe in sharing

I believe everyone  
is equal

I believe I  
can be me

I believe I have  
power over my  
actions

I believe my ideas  
are important

I believe in showing  
respect to everyone

I believe I have the  
right to be safe

**BUT.... I DO NOT  
BELIEVE IN VIOLENCE!**

# let's get started! **SAVE** action planning



## **OBTAIN APPROVAL**

The first step in any successful program's implementation at the school or community level is to have the approval and support of your administration from the very start. Some things to consider include:

- What approval will you need to implement SAVE in your school or community group?
- How will you present the information you have received on SAVE?
- Who will help you present this information?

## **GET OTHERS INVOLVED!**

Once approval has been obtained, a core planning group needs to be formed to aid you in establishing the program. Members of this core planning group should include: administration, key staff including those interested in being advisors, possibly parents, and most importantly, students.

## **QUESTIONS TO ASK:**

- What are our expectations, goals, and objectives for our SAVE chapter?
- How and when will our club or chapter meet?
- How do we plan to implement SAVE in our school or community?
- Are there any school or community resource people that may give us a hand?
- How do we let others know about our program and what we're trying to do? How do we get others interested? Will we make posters, hold a kickoff event, make announcements?
- Will we have membership requirements? Will we elect officers and if so, how?
- What are areas of interest for our SAVE chapter to address? Should we focus on specific needs or issues of crime or violence affecting our school and community?
- What activities, service projects, or other events would we like to accomplish?

## **REGISTER YOUR CHAPTER WITH NATIONAL SAVE!**

Be sure to send in your Chapter Registration form so that you can receive the great benefits of being part of the SAVE family.



# SAVE chapter benefits

“I was invited to join our SAVE chapter. I thought it wouldn’t work, but I could get out of class for an hour once a week. Man, I was wrong! I learned that there are other ways to handle problems. Fighting isn’t the answer, talking it out is.”

- Robert, Student  
Detroit, MI

Annual **membership certificate** suitable to be prominently displayed in your school or organization and to verify use of SAVE as part of your safe school plan



Free student **membership cards** (max 50 cards)

Accessibility to a “**Members-Only**” section of the SAVE website, including:

- Downloading the latest **lesson plans** as they are developed by SAVE
- Special guest messages
- Access to potential **grant opportunities**
- Additional special features

Eligibility for **opportunities** such as:

- SAVE chapter **mini-grants**
- Annual individual & SAVE chapter **awards**
- National SAVE **Youth Advisory Board** Selection (High School & Collegiate)
- **Partner** with National SAVE on possible grants/projects
- Special **Incentives** - prizes, give-aways, and/or drawings



Priority booking for **speakers & trainings**

Receive **Special Discounts** such as:

- 5% discount on **educational items**
- Summit/workshop **registration discount**
- Opportunities for free **display materials** to be used at conferences or events

Special **Recognition**

- All official SAVE chapters will be listed on the main **SAVE website**
- Only official SAVE chapters will be eligible to be in the “**Spotlight**” section of the main website which highlights outstanding SAVE members, advisors and chapters
- Monthly eSource **highlights** will be reserved for official SAVE chapters



Receive monthly **SAVE eSource Newsletter**

# SAVE Chapter Registration

The National Association of SAVE is the official agency for the SAVE program and provides leadership, direction, educational materials and resources to SAVE chapters. By registering your SAVE chapter, you will join the network of SAVE chapters nationwide. A simple and easy chapter dues process insures that SAVE chapters will continue to be able to receive useful benefits to aid in planning and continuing SAVE successes, as well as adding new and improved opportunities for your safe school efforts. Chapter dues are \$100 per chapter and are effective for a full twelve month period.

School/Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School District (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal/Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Main Advisor:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Advisor:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Advisor:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary email: \_\_\_\_\_

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Grade Level(s) of student Members:

Elementary    Middle    High School    College    Other

Date chapter started/anticipated start date: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions/Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**SAVE provides education about the effects and consequences of violence and helps provide safe extracurricular activities for students, parents, and the community. The organization is designed to have regular club meetings or classroom sessions for members to learn about alternatives to violence and to promote its message to other schools and throughout the community.**

Chapters may pay their chapter registration fee by Purchase Order, Check, Money Order, or Credit Card. If paying by purchase order, please include a copy of the purchase order.

**PAYMENT METHOD:**

- Check/Money Order Enclosed
- Purchase Order (Attach Purchase Order)
- Credit Card

Circle Type:    VISA    MC    Discover    AmEX

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Billing Address:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**FED ID # 56-224-2334**

Please mail chapter registration form with payment to:

**National SAVE**  
**Post Office Box 580**  
**Willow Spring, NC 27592**



**Toll Free: 866-343-SAVE**  
**FAX: 919-661-7777**  
**[www.nationalsave.org](http://www.nationalsave.org)**

# SAVE

# Our Association

The National Association of SAVE is a public, nonprofit charitable, educational organization and is established as a 501(c)3 organization. This status allows us to seek support, promote, and expand the SAVE program. The growth of SAVE is dependent on financial contributions made by individuals, groups, businesses, corporations, and other supporting agencies. There are many benefits to being a financial contributor to SAVE. Not only will you be aiding in the safe development of young lives, you will be securing the future of our schools, communities and world. Any financial support is most welcome and will be greatly acknowledged by our organization. All gifts are tax deductible. For more information on contributing to SAVE, please visit our website or call 1-866-343-SAVE.



[www.nationalsave.org](http://www.nationalsave.org)

## NATIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

The Youth Advisory Board (YAB) was created by the National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere to represent the ideals, principles, mission and vision of SAVE. They serve as a voice for SAVE and as national role models for peers and younger students. YABers are required to attend SAVE training institutes and retreats as well as attend and assist in planning the National Summit. In past years, the Board has presented at national conferences in Washington (DC), Denver (CO), Philadelphia (PA), Las Vegas (NV), Waco (TX), Nashville (TN), Chicago (IL), and Anaheim, (CA).

A limited number of students from across the United States join together and have one common goal: to decrease the potential of violence in their schools and communities. YABers consider themselves the voice of their peers and are approached by various adult committees for opinions, youth programs and youth activities. They have become “a voice that matters” to adult leadership groups by providing a youthful perspective on current and new initiatives. Visit our website to learn more about the Youth Advisory Board.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere’s Board of Directors consists of experts from across the country. Included on the board are representatives of the following areas: youth violence prevention, parents, students, educators, corporate community, community agencies, emergency preparedness, public health and law enforcement. The Board provides guidance and direction for the overall operation and goals of SAVE. To learn more about our Board of directors, visit our website.





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