

In the simplest of terms, *Project Ignition* is a service-learning grant program focused on teen driver safety — but the ripple effect the program creates is anything but simple.

Student campaign teams find their inspiration close to home — sometimes from personal tragedy — but their powerful messages reach across towns, counties, and state lines. Students find amazing and creative ways to bring their messages to life:

- They engage peers and other community members to consider their own roles in teen driver safety issues through school physics projects, interactive demonstrations at school lunch rooms and community fairs, writing music and poetry, producing public service announcements.
  - They meet with city councils and local legislators to encourage stronger public policy surrounding teen driver safety.
  - They build Web sites and memory walls. Students galvanize schools and families —even entire communities — around their efforts to keep teen drivers and passengers safe.
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- Grants are awarded in January
  - Projects are conducted Jan–April each year.
  - Top Ten are named in May

<http://www.sfprojectignition.com/about.htm>

The above is a brief description of Project Ignition and their national goals taken directly from their web site. A core group of Second Mile Leadership students (under the leadership of Mrs. Alice Nichols) will assume responsibility for implementing Project Ignition at YHS if the \$2000 grant is awarded. They will work very closely with Youngsville Borough and the Youngsville Police Department to create an effective program.

The title of the local program is “Keep Your Eyes on the Prize...Staying Alive.” The students will work with the YPD, Dr. Jaskolka and YHS teachers to bring speakers and activities to the school that will 1) educate young drivers about the consequences of their choices behind the wheel, 2) reach out to student drivers in other WCSD schools, and 3) attempt policy changes by asking government officials to create new or updated legislation that will ultimately save lives.

Examples:

YPD will help with activities such as Rodeo Days where students can operate a golf cart through cones while they are wearing “beer goggles” in order to experience the level of impairment that comes from drinking and driving.

Youngsville Borough Council recently enacted an ordinance banning cell phone use while driving in the borough; students may work with their peers from other schools to request similar laws are passed in other communities. Students may also decide to lobby Rep. Kathy Rapp, Sen. Mary Jo White, and other lawmakers to help enact tougher driving laws, especially for young, inexperienced drivers. Teachers in various classes may incorporate some of these activities into their curriculum. Many students may also choose to make some of these activities part of their senior projects.