



Madison to Host Youth Advisory Committee Internet Safety Workshop

Madison has launched a youth initiative in the community of Staunton with 16 members of the Staunton Youth Council. This new organization, appropriately named the Youth Advisory Committee, is designed to promote technology awareness and Internet safety through youth leadership in action.

The first project which the Youth Advisory Committee has taken on is an Internet Safety Awareness Campaign. Workshops for both students and adults alike have been developed. The first series of student workshops were just held at the Staunton Junior High School on April 3rd. Members of the committee presented information gathered from two of the most highly accredited Internet safety organizations, InternetSafety.com and netsmartz.org. Students from the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes were educated on the topics of cyberbullying, digital citizenship, social networking profiles, and offline consequences of online postings.

The Youth Advisory Committee has also developed a parents workshop to be held April 18th at Madison's main office, located at 21668 Double Arch Road in Staunton. This free workshop, open to the public, will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will offer solutions and strategies for how parents and grandparents can keep their children and grandchildren safe while using the Internet. As seating will be limited, anyone planning to attend is asked to call Madison at 1-800-422-4848 to reserve a seat.

Members of the Youth Advisory Committee have also recently completed their own safety videos which have been posted to YouTube as well as to their Facebook page. These videos, which address the issue of distracted driving and Internet safety, were scripted and filmed by committee members. The goal of this project was to demonstrate how digital technology can be used to promote digital safety. These videos will also be incorporated into the materials presented during the parents workshop.

For questions or details concerning the Youth Advisory Committee and/or the community workshops, please feel free to contact Madison's business office during normal hours of operation, Monday through Saturday, 8:00 to 5:00 p.m.