

WHAT IS COBB SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS/SAFE HOMES?

Cobb Safe Neighborhoods/Safe Homes is a new project, offering an opportunity for neighborhoods and residents to help provide safer environments for youth, families and neighborhoods. It uses a tried and tested grassroots neighbor-to-neighbor model 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 neighbors 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 putting a stop to "social hosting" of underage drinking parties/gatherings.

It requires a neighborhood volunteer to distribute and collect information among neighborhood residents, once each year. Orientation, materials, and phone/email support are all available for volunteers.

There are **3** components:

- 1. Neighborhood Partnership Agreement** – Neighborhood Association (or a network of neighbors), agree to partner with the Cobb Underage Drinking Task Force to help prevent underage youth social access to alcohol in and on neighborhood homes and property. An authorized neighborhood association representative signs the Agreement, publicly stating the association agrees to follow simple principles and steps to encourage and support safe neighborhood behaviors of residents. Neighborhood partners identify a Safe Homes volunteer coordinator, who assists in distributing information and collecting signed Safe Homes Agreements from neighborhood residents annually.
- 2. Safe Homes Agreement** – Individual residents, homeowners or renters, signs the Agreement, publicly agreeing to follow simple principles and steps to help keep neighborhood youth and the neighborhood 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 folder, along with a copy of each of the two Agreements, 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 Safe Homes volunteer coordinators.

Neighborhood Benefits – Community recognition and "Safe Neighborhood" designation will be awarded to eligible partners annually. Neighborhood partners collecting a certain number of Safe Homes Agreements and reporting number/percent of neighborhood Safe Home participants to the Cobb Underage Drinking Task Force will be eligible for consideration. *The number/percent requirement will be established/set, with input from neighborhood partners after year one.

Resident Benefits – Limit risks and liabilities associated with hosting underage drinking parties. Limit 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.cudtf.org/safehomes • 404.223.9812

