



KBG - Celebrating a remarkable 10 years...

1999-2009

From 13 to over 12,000 members!

In the beginning...

It all started with 'TATU' - but not the kind that would freak out your parents! In 1999, 13 teens received training in the Teens Against Tobacco Use program (TATU) and decided they *really* wanted to do more about tobacco prevention and control for youth in Delaware. (What high schools were those students from, you ask? Dover, Smyrna, Milford, Seaford, Delcastle, Polytech, Brandywine and A.I. DuPont.)

Our membership rocks! We've grown from 13 to 12,000 members! (Credit also goes to the Delaware Division of Public Health's Tobacco Prevention Youth Contract. Funding for the Contract is provided by the Delaware Health Fund)

What happened then? What's happening now?

NEED SOMETHING DONE? BRING IT ON! The KBG is a very action-oriented group. We like getting together and making a noise about the dangers of tobacco. We like change and make it happen. Here's the proof:

- Advocated for Delaware's landmark Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA - no smoking ban); we worked with lung advocates and legislators to make it happen! Delaware has the most comprehensive CIAA in the nation!
- Clean Delaware beaches every year – the KBG has collected over one million butts in 5 years!
- Advocating for tobacco-free beaches in Delaware
- Pushing for ID checks on tobacco purchases (if you are under 18, NO TOBACCO FOR YOU!)
- Supporting excise tax on tobacco products to deter youth from smoking
- Taking on Hollywood and advocating for cigarette-free movies
- Educating everyone on the dangers of secondhand smoke
- Supporting national anti-tobacco initiatives like pushing for strong FDA regulation on tobacco products
- Educating thousands of Delaware youth every year about the dangers of tobacco
- Running the awesome Portable Anti-Tobacco Carnival for kids in elementary school



Internships, Retreats and a Day at the Beach – KBG offers it all!

“The KBG has a popular youth internship program for members in middle and high school. Interns are the core of the movement and responsible for the KBG’s growth,” says Sheri Tower Gabrelcik, KBG advisor. “They are the pulse, the ideas, the energy, the essence of the KBG. We take our lead from them. Each year the KBG movement adapts to a new crop of interns – it is awesome to monitor the change. It keeps the KBG dynamic and relevant.”

Since 1999, twice a year, in spring and fall, the KBG Interns have leadership retreats at Cape Henlopen Beach. They spend three days strategizing, competing, playing and doing community service. “We set our goals for the year and map out ways to get there,” says Amber Lampkins 2009 KBG Chair. “We bond, argue, compete and challenge each other on a range of issues, all of them important,” adds Amber. “I am always stunned at the level of acceptance and camaraderie within the KBG movement – as different and diverse as we are, we all have the same goal - to protect youth from the dangers of tobacco. That is a very powerful bond.”



What’s in a name?

We almost weren’t called the KBG! The other names we considered were: **Teens Against Smoking (TAS)**, **Youth Against Tobacco (YAT)**, and **Kids Against Tobacco (KAT)** – but the winning name tag became the **Kick Butts Generation (KBG)**. And by the year 2000, the KBG represented 12 high schools and middle schools with at least 2 representatives from each school on The Council each year.



Who runs what?

We’ve had great guidance from the start from the American Lung Association’s youth coordinator Sheri Towner Gabrelcik and elected KBG youth leaders. The KBG represents all three counties in Delaware with each county having its own KBG County Chair. Everyone works in collaboration with the KBG State wide chair on KBG goals, events and projects.

Make a difference in your school! In your community! In the world! Join the Kick Butts Generation today! www.ysmoke.org

