

# COPPER COUNTRY AMERICORPS

700 Park Avenue, Houghton, Michigan 49931

906-482-3663 or 800-236-5657

Fax: 906-482-7329 ~ email: ccac@up.net



Michelle LaCourt  
Program Director

*Strengthening our community  
for youth*

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 10, 2004

**Contact:** Michelle LaCourt

Copper Country AmeriCorps Program Director

(906) 482-3663

mrlacour@bhkfirst.org

## Community invited to Alcohol Free Weekend planning meeting

HOUGHTON – The Copper Country AmeriCorps National Service Program invites local youth and adult community members from Baraga, Houghton, and Keweenaw counties to a general planning meeting for Alcohol Free Weekend 2004. The meeting will be from 12:30 p.m to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, at the B-H-K Child Development Board center at 700 Park Ave. in Houghton. A light lunch will be provided.

The meeting's purpose is to seek public support and input about the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Alcohol Free Weekend, which is coordinated by local AmeriCorps members. AFW is a three-month campaign that addresses two key issues facing Copper Country youth: a lack of things to do and underage drinking.

Alcohol Free Weekend's signature event, Alcohol Free at the SDC, to be held from 7 p.m. to midnight Saturday, April 17, 2004, provides a safe night of fun activities for more than 1,200 area middle- and high-school students and encourages them to find and accept alternatives to underage drinking. Other youth-oriented events in past years include speakers at local schools, car crash simulations, community-wide dances, coordination with local SADD chapters for alcohol-free activities and more.

The AFW campaign's main target group is youth in grades 6 through 12. In past years, the Alcohol Free Weekend Planning Committee also has brought speakers to area universities and conducted the Great Cardboard Boat Regatta and other community initiatives. The planning committee wants to expand AFW in the next several years to include more community-based events and activities.

In addition to helping plan events, other ways to support Alcohol Free Weekend 2004 include:

- A donation of money to offset event expenses. Checks can be addressed to Copper Country AmeriCorps/AFW and sent to B-H-K at the above address.
- A donation of goods, services, and gift certificates to be given away at the SDC event.
- A donation of volunteer time on the planning committee or at any of the events.

For more information, contact program Director Michelle LaCourt at (906) 482-3663.

###