

OKLAHOMA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

2011 S.W.A.T. Youth Leadership and Advocacy Retreat

At the end of every SWAT (Students Working Against Tobacco) school year, SWAT teams are invited to attend a Youth Leadership and Advocacy Retreat during the summer. SWAT's mission is to expose the lies of Big Tobacco companies. The retreat was held at The Salvation Army Camp Heart o' The Hills in Welling, OK from May 31 to June 2, 2011. Five students from the Pleasant Grove SWAT team in Shawnee were able to attend the retreat this year. Adult partner and coalition member Rebecca Eropkin was also able to attend.

This was an opportunity for the students to learn new leadership skills to effectively lead within their SWAT teams in the upcoming school year. Students were engaged in a team building session, brainstorming activities, and various presentations. The retreat also provided a swimming pool, zip line and ropes courses in addition to staff organizing an outside activity day for the students.

About 180 students attended the retreat. Students were given wonderful SWAT gear and left the retreat ready to start new SWAT activities in the next school year.