Building a Culture of Sun Safety for Nevada's Kids



More Nevada children are engaging in sun safe behaviors and decreasing their risk of skin cancer thanks to participation in Nevada Cancer Coalition's Sun Smart Schools program. Designed to establish a culture of sun safety for our children while promoting outdoor exercise and activity, Sun Smart Schools helps children to build healthy habits they can carry on through adulthood. It's based on other successful programs launched in Arizona, Colorado, and abroad in Autstralia.

The 3 Pillars of Sun Smart Schools

- 1. Sun safety curriculum and education in preschool, elementary, middle, and high school systems;
- 2. Access to sunscreen and shade in both the school and community environment; and,
- 3. School and school district policies to support sun smart behavior.

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Measuring Success in Year Two

Sun Smart Schools kicked off its second year of programming in the 2016-17 school year by expanding from seven pilot schools to 22 participating schools including the entire Douglas County School District. Students from pre-K through 12th grade in public, private, and parochial schools all participated in the program.

- 55 sunscreen dispensers installed in schools
- 116-1,000 ml pouches of sunscreen distributed
- 5,283 program surveys completed by students, parents, teachers, and school staff
- Surveys showed positive increases in sun safety knowledge, behavior & attitudes





Sun Smart Schools is a program of Nevada Cancer Coalition, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. For more information visit www.SunSmartNevada.org or call 775-737-4580.

5250 Neil Rd., Suite 203, Reno, NV 89502 www.NevadaCancerCoalition.org | www.SunSmartNevada.org

A Powerful Partnership



Nevada Cancer Coalition partner Saint Mary's Center for Cancer continued its support of Sun Smart Schools this year, helping to enhance the program's education and outreach activities.

Saint Mary's also provided a cancer center nurse to team up with Coalition staff for classroom and assembly presentations to elementary and middle school students. They even leveraged their partnership with the Reno Aces to bring the baseball team's mascot Archie along to demonstrate sun smart behaviors, which proved both entertaining and engaging!

This rewarding collaboration took Sun Smart Schools to yet another level for our students. If you know of an organization that would be interested in joining the Sun Smart Schools team, please connect us!



Practicing sun smart behaviors in environments outside the context of school is important for youth to reinforce sun safety habits. Sun Smart Nevada, the umbrella program for Sun Smart Schools, grew its community presence by working with local governments and organizations to increase access to sunscreen and educate the community on skin cancer prevention.

Automatic sunscreen dispensers were installed by the City of Sparks at Sparks Marina park and Golden Eagle Sports Complex, and in Douglas County at the Carson Valley Swim Center, all of which attract thousands of families and children.

NCC's team also brought sunscreen and educational materials to **more than 20 events** including Dignity Health's Rose Regatta Dragon Boat Festival in Las Vegas; Immunize Nevada's Dragon Boat



Festival at Sparks Marina; and Carson Tahoe Health's wellness series. Combined, Sun Smart Nevada's presence at outreach events and health fairs reached **more than 10,000 Nevadans**.

The Future's So Bright...

Sun Smart Schools took another leap forward for the 2017-18 school year. Douglas County School District chief health nurse Jen Tyndall joined Coalition staff to showcase the program to district superintendents from across the state. That presentation led to program implementation in three more counties! Sun Smart Schools now reaches **more than 17,150 students in 42 schools across six counties.**



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