

**FACILITATOR'S GUIDE**

# Life After High School

LIVING SAFER. BEING SMARTER.



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The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) is a private, nonprofit tax-exempt [501(c)(3)] organization whose primary mission is to be the nation's leader in helping people keep themselves, their families, and their communities safe from crime. NCPC's strategic plan is centered on four goals: promote crime prevention; partner with government, law enforcement, the private sector, and communities to prevent crime; protect children, youth, and other vulnerable populations; and respond to emerging crime trends. NCPC publishes books, kits of camera-ready program materials, posters, and informational and policy reports on a variety of crime prevention and community-building subjects. NCPC offers training, technical assistance, and a national focus for crime prevention: it acts as secretariat for the Crime Prevention Coalition of America, more than 400 national, federal, state, and local organizations representing thousands of constituents who are committed to preventing crime. NCPC also sponsors the National Crime Prevention Association, an individual membership association to promote resources and career development to crime prevention practitioners. It hosts two websites: [www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org) for adults and [www.mcgruff.org](http://www.mcgruff.org) for children. It operates demonstration programs in schools, neighborhoods, and entire jurisdictions and takes a major leadership role in youth crime prevention and youth service. NCPC manages the McGruff® "Take A Bite Out Of Crime®" public service advertising campaign. NCPC is funded through a variety of government agencies, corporate and private foundations, and donations from private individuals.



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# Facilitator's Guide



**T**his kit is designed to help high school students live safer in young adulthood—jobs, apartments, cities, credit cards, freedoms, and new responsibilities. Over the past years you've dedicated countless hours nurturing and guiding these youth, teaching them the basics, and preparing them to be well-rounded, law-abiding, successful, and happy adults. Across the country, once these youth graduate from high school and enter into young adulthood, they fall victim to crime at an alarming rate. Young adults between 18 and 24 years old fall victim to crime while facing many challenges for the first time, such as finding an apartment, getting a job, leaving for college, applying for credit cards, moving to new cities, and traveling.

With this toolkit, graduating seniors will have knowledge at their fingertips on how to stay safe and prevent crime as they transition into adulthood and face new challenges. Through this program, we can help young adults find the balance between youthful impulse and safe, responsible decision making.





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## Smarter Resource Project

Nationwide young adults are being victimized at alarming rates. Crimes such as credit card fraud, identity theft, and burglary threaten the 18- to 24-year-old population and often define their first experiences as unsafe ones. In an effort to teach this population crime prevention skills, the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) and the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice have developed the Smarter Resource Project for Young Adults. Through this project, NCPC aims to reduce victimization and promote awareness of the crime and safety concerns facing this population. This project fills the gap in knowledge, provides training to young adult supporters, and increases the number of 18- to 24-year-olds across the nation who are aware of the most effective crime prevention strategies.

NCPC conducted original research with young adults from across the country to determine

- Young adults' awareness and experience with personal safety and crime prevention
- Current protection practices used
- Young adults' preferred marketing approach

The study was designed to measure what

young adults know about the dangers awaiting them in adulthood and how to best deliver important crime prevention and safety tips. The main goal of the project is to supply the most up-to-date, relevant information to allow young adults to make the most informed and educated decisions. As part of the project, NCPC has created this toolkit for graduating high school seniors.

## ***Life After High School Toolkit***

This kit uses an integrated, comprehensive approach to reach graduating seniors to help bridge the gap between adolescence and adulthood. It incorporates

- Tips and guidelines for young adults by topic
- Resources for high school campuses
- A collection of resources for local and national organizations

### **How the Kit Is Organized**

#### TOOLKIT

This kit is divided into eight topical sections. You may use the topics in any order that best meets your school's needs and schedule. Additional materials can be downloaded from the website at [www.ncpc.org/smarter](http://www.ncpc.org/smarter).



Each section includes safety tips and crime prevention information to prepare graduating seniors for young adulthood. These safety topics and subtopics are as follows

- *Apartment/Home Safety*
  - Apartment hunting
  - Picking a roommate
  - Signing the lease
  - Tenant's rights
  - Renter's Insurance
- *Military*
  - Joining and signing contracts
  - Military gangs
  - Women and gays in the military
  - Predatory lending
- *Alcohol and Drugs*
  - Going to parties and bars
  - Binge drinking
  - Illegal substances
  - Legal consequences
- *Transportation Safety*
  - Getting around town
  - Highway safety
  - Insurance
  - Headphones and cell phones
  - Traveling
- *Job/Workforce Safety*
  - Creating and posting a resume
  - Online job searches
  - Workplace safety and bullying
  - Paychecks and benefits
- *Finance*
  - Checking and savings accounts
  - Online and mobile banking
  - Credit cards and loans
  - Taxes
- *Dating Safety*
  - Going out on dates
  - Online profiles
  - Dating violence
  - Being a bystander
- *Internet Safety*
  - Cybercrimes
  - Digital intellectual property
  - Fraud and identity theft
  - Social media
  - Cyberbullying and sexting



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## REPRODUCIBLES

Electronic versions of reproducible materials to supplement the sessions are provided online at [nccpc.org/smarter](http://nccpc.org/smarter).

The reproducibles available are as follows:

- Apartment Safety
- ATM Awareness Palm Card
- Neighborhood Safety Checklist
- Spring Break/Travel Luggage Tag
- Online Job Classified Advertisement
- Online Dating Fact Sheet
- Drink Safety Postcards
- Sexting Tip Sheet

## How To Introduce the Kit

- Designate a counselor or teacher as the Life After High School advisor
- Provide career counseling/development courses
- Hand out the kit at graduation or a step-up day event
- Provide the kit at a mandatory assembly
- Include the kit in an end-of-year package

## Resources

Each topic is addressed at length with guidelines and safety tips age-appropriately tailored to high school students. Additional resources on each topic are listed at the

end of the kit. We encourage you and your students to investigate these resources and incorporate them into the project.

## Strength

One of the most exciting parts of this project is its longevity. Information regarding opening first bank accounts, applying for jobs, and traveling for vacations will continue to be relevant year after year.

The toolkit can be tailored to fit the needs of your specific school and neighborhood. In addition, the high school toolkit will be followed up by a campus curriculum that addresses similar topics in a classroom setting during the freshman year of college. Distributing the toolkit and introducing the topics in high school will establish a foundation for youth as they move into adulthood.

## Feedback

Give us feedback on how the toolkit worked for your school and its students. On the website [www.nccpc.org/smarter](http://www.nccpc.org/smarter), click on the "Contact Us" tab and submit your feedback in the fields as designated.





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