

YAC Update



From Left: Payton Lovins, Jack Warfield, Mary Miller, Logan Albring, Lucas Rupp

“Where are the tables?” asked a bewildered Archbold YAC member. “What’s going on?” Things looked a little different to the YAC members who attended the November meeting held at the Fulton County Admin Bldg. A ‘Warm Fuzzy board’ decorated the wall, a prize wheel on display in the front of the room, Jib Jab video’s starring our own YAC members were playing on the screen in the front, and yes, all of the tables had been removed leaving only chairs in a circle. All of these additions and changes were ideas, that Beth Thomas and Karen Pennington, YAC Coordinators, learned at a recent conference, changes to help the group connect, and to encourage participation. “We want our meeting time to be productive but we also want this time to be a fun and casual way to connect with friends. We are encouraging kids to come early and hang out and visit so when it’s time to get down to business, they are ready to work,” said Karen.

And we have work to do....currently the group is planning for their upcoming overnight retreat in February to be held at Camp Palmer. Teens have been brainstorming ideas for the theme, t-shirt designs, and workshop presentations. The Retreat committee was formed in October to start the planning process. The theme “To Infinity and Beyond,” was chosen and committee members will continue meeting to decide upon decorations, games, food, speakers to fill the 24 plus hours of retreat (squeezing in a few hours for sleep.)

Based on individual interest, the YAC teens choose “work groups”, to develop YAC projects in the areas of Media Campaign, Community Outreach Event, Training Event, and establishing a Family Code of Conduct to address issues of youth use of alcohol, marijuana, and tobacco. These projects will take the place of our spring prevention project, and are aimed toward reaching more of our teens and families in Fulton County. More information will be coming as the planning continues.

As always, we are so thankful to have the opportunity to work with these youth. Their enthusiasm for choosing a healthy lifestyle is contagious.