



To all Freshman Families:

The Depot Youth Center would like to pass on our congratulations on your graduation from middle school and welcome you to visit Darien's own youth center. The Depot will mark its 25th year of operation this spring! The Depot provides Darien high school aged students (public & private school) with a safe, supervised, drug and alcohol free place to gather, socialize and participate in a variety of social and community service activities.

On average, 1200 teens visit The Depot each month to participate in SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions), Girl's Night Out, Citizen Police Academy, Self-Defense Work Shops, Band Nights, Cop Shop, dances, movie nights, theater performances or sports tournaments and IMPROV/Open Mic Nights to name just a few. Successful attendance is supported by the Depot's Student Governing Board, under the supervision of Janice Marzano, our Program Director. The SGB creates and runs many of the monthly programming events and is also responsible for setting and enforcing the rules of conduct at The Depot.

As an incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grader/9<sup>th</sup> grade parent (even if student will not be attending Darien High School) you are encouraged to visit The Depot. Check the calendar on our website at [www.dariendepot.com](http://www.dariendepot.com) for what's going on! Please come visit The Depot in person and discover all that it has to offer. Bring this letter with you and receive a free ice cream soda just for checking us out!

All the best during this upcoming school year,

The Depot Adult Advisory Board and Student Governing Board

**The Depot is a non-profit, substance and alcohol free youth center  
that is run by Darien youth, for Darien youth.**

Frequently Asked Questions:

**Who supervises the kids?** Our experienced Program Director and Assistant Directors are always on staff during Depot hours.

**Can anyone come?** All Darien public, private and home-schooled high school age teens are welcome. Guests may come if accompanied by a Darien teen.

**Is the DEPOT just for high school teens?** No. The Depot invites other community organizations (Safe Rides, Kids in Crisis Youth Corps, Playdates, Darien Youth Commission's Middle School Summer Activity Program and Funbusters) to use our facility. We have several programs geared specifically for middle school events throughout the year and The Depot is available to rent for parties and other events. We also hold parties for the town's 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> graders twice a year as a means of introducing them to the facility.

**Why are the police at The Depot so frequently?** The Depot has a very close relationship with the Darien Police Department & its Youth Officers. In addition to regular meetings with our Student Governing Board to discuss relevant teen issues, the Police Dept. holds Citizen Police Academy for 7/8<sup>th</sup> graders - a six week program which focuses on all aspects of Police & Law. We regularly use the Darien Police at the front door for check in and to maintain parking lot safety at our weekend events. During the school year, The Depot collaborates with the Darien Youth Officers to host "Straight Talk", an open forum for parent discussion; Cops & Kids Adventures (this program boasts 20 6/7/8<sup>th</sup> graders and 11 cops); but most often you'll find the officers stop by on their nightly patrol to chat with the kids, grab a burger or play a video game.

**What happens if someone arrives under the influence at The Depot?** Anyone in The Depot or the surrounding area who is suspected of being under the influence will be evicted and prohibited from using The Depot for 3 months. The Depot Director will notify the parents of all offenders. The parents of second-time offenders will also be given a list of local agencies which provide substance treatment programs or counseling services. Second-time offenders will not be permitted to use The Depot facilities until some assurance has been submitted to the Program Director that the offending conduct shall not reoccur, such as written assurance from a substance treatment provider that the problem is being addressed. In addition, however, anyone in The Depot or the surrounding area who is found to in possession of drugs, alcohol or controlled substances or drug paraphernalia will be immediately reported to the police.