



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 30, 2010

“HEY! GET THE SCOOP” YOUTH EVENT ON APRIL 17 Youth are the first to preview Central Grounds and the Bloomington Youth-Friendly Map

The Bloomington Youth Action Crew (BYAC) and Central Grounds are co-sponsoring a “Hey! Get the Scoop” youth event on Saturday, April 17. The event to preview Central Grounds and the Bloomington Youth-Friendly Map is free and open to students in grades 8-12. It will take place from 4-6 p.m. at Creekside Community Center on 98th Street and Penn Avenue.

Ice-cream and other food, music from the Big Al juke box and raffle drawings are part of this event. Students attending the event will be first to receive the youth-friendly map. They will also be first to preview Central Grounds – a youth-led initiative to provide a chemical-free, safe, fun environment where high school youth feel welcomed and valued.

The youth-friendly map, created by BYAC, identifies businesses and community organizations that offer welcoming, supportive and encouraging environments for youth. They provide positive opportunities for youth to work, volunteer, connect and hang out.

BYAC made decisions about who would be included on the map after surveying 570 Bloomington youth and a number of Bloomington businesses and community organizations. They are providing posters of congratulations to these businesses and organizations for display.

The Bloomington Youth Action Crew (BYAC), a youth engagement project, was launched in the spring of 2009 with the purpose of identifying and promoting youth-friendly opportunities in Bloomington. It is comprised of middle and high school students from Kennedy and Jefferson High Schools and Oak Grove Middle School. It is offered through Bloomington Public Health and support is provided by the Substance Abuse and Mental health Services Administration, McKnight Foundation, Park Nicollet Foundation, Bloomington Education Foundation, and Safe and Drug- Free Schools.

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