



# TOBACCO-FREE OUTDOORS

Park/Public Space Observation - Tool-kit

# PARK / PUBLIC SPACE OBSERVATION TOOLKIT

## COORDINATOR GUIDE



When you can't get together to take action, let the action happen from home. This is a toolkit that can help share our message.

### YOU WILL NEED

- Envelopes and Stamps
- Possible high-end gear items (as incentives for youth to complete this project)
- Printer and paper to print out the toolkits

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Print out the toolkit for your youth
- Put toolkits in envelopes, address them to your youth, and pop them in the mail.
- Consider adding a "Point Value" to this activity as an incentive to complete it.
- If you are not doing the Point System consider some other High-End Gear Item as an incentive to complete the activity.
- Follow-up to see how they are doing, plan a day where they can report out their findings with each other on a call. Work with them to plan how to share their findings with their community, with lawmakers, and with the media.

## WORKPLAN DELIVERABLES CHECK LIST

### EQUIP (*youth infrastructure*)

- Provide youth leaders with an overview of the activity, discuss timelines, materials needed, possible barriers and how they might overcome them.
- Provide youth leaders with the materials that they will need, or discuss with them how they will obtain them.
- Provide youth leaders with a plan to report back their findings
- Discuss with the youth leaders ways in which this activity will educate their community and their elected officials.
- Discuss with the youth leaders what organizational decision makers this activity may impact and discuss ways in which youth can advocate this project with those decision makers. Create a plan with the youth.
- Discuss with the youth leaders who else can help with this project? Who can we “mobilize?” Create a plan with the youth to make those connections and a plan to follow through.
- Discuss with the youth leaders how you can let others know about what you are doing? Is there a news outlet they want to reach out to? How will you share the activity on Social Media? What media can be tagged? Create a plan with the youth to make those connections and make the posts.
- Discuss with the youth “how will we know that this activity was successful?” How will you evaluate the activity?
- Once the activity is complete take time with your youth to discuss the following 1) What went well? 2) What didn't 3) What could we improve? 4) Will we want to do this again? 5) Who else can we share with about what we did?
- Work with your youth to create a short presentation or summary with photos and outcomes. This can be shared in an online newsletter, shared with other RC groups, and shared on our website realitycheckofny.com and our statewide social media sites.

### EDUCATE

- Who will be educated as a result of this activity?
- How will you reach them?
- How many people will be educated?
- How will you know you were successful?
- What community members were educated, how many, and what was done to educate them?
- Did you communicate directly with the community members? How?
- What government policy makers were educated, how many, and what was done to educate them?
- Did you communicate directly with a government policy maker? How?

### ADVOCATE

- What organizational decision makers will you advocate for change with as a result of this activity?
- What action do you want the organizational decision maker to take?
- How will you engage them?
- How will you know you were successful?

### MOBILIZE

- Who will you mobilize for this activity?
- How many people/organizations will be mobilized?
- What action do you want them to take?
- How will you engage them to take action
- How will you know that they took action?
- How will you know you were successful?

### PROMOTE

- How will you let the media and the community know about what you are doing?
- Who will you contact and how will you contact them?
- How will you know you were successful?
- Don't forget to share any media coverage with your elected officials!

# TOBACCO-FREE OUTDOORS OBSERVATION TOOLKIT



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## Selfie Challenge with Tobacco Free Park Sign

How many parks can we observe this summer? Let's keep count by posting on social media a selfie of how you are working towards a tobacco free outdoors!

Wear a Reality Check T-shirt for your photo if you have one.

Use the **#SeenEnoughTobacco** and **#TobaccoFreeParks** to get social media attention

## YOU WILL NEED

- Park Observation Form and a clip board
- Something to take photos with (like a cell-phone)
- Reality Check T-shirt or hoodie or any apparel really would work
- A list of parks and other public spaces in your community

## INSTRUCTIONS

- Research the public spaces in your community
- Plan your trips to these locations
- Make sure to bring your clip board and the Park Observation Forms
- Make sure to wear some RC Merch
- Don't forget your phone or something to take photos
- Post your findings on Social Media or send to your Coordinator so they can post your photos. **#TobaccoFreeParks** **#SeenEnoughTobacco**
- Share your findings with the Town, Village, or City that owns that public space
- Share your findings with the media

## Park Observation

Park Name:

Location:

Date of visit:

Are there *No Smoking/Vaping* signs clearly shown on the grounds? Yes No

How many? \_\_\_\_\_

Where were they located? \_ on or close to pavilions \_ close to playground  
\_ close to the beach area \_ at or near the entrance  
\_ other location \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a sign listing park rules that includes *No Smoking* or *No Tobacco Use*? Yes No

Is there tobacco litter on the grounds? (i.e., cigarette butts, empty vape cartridges, chew tobacco cans) Yes No

Is there a playground at the park? Yes No

Is there a pavilion? Yes No How many? \_\_\_\_\_

Does the park have a beach? Yes No

Are there ballfields at this park? How many? \_\_\_\_\_

Does the park hold summer programs for children? Yes No



## FACTS & STATISTICS

- The average age of a new smoker in NYS is 13
- Tobacco use is the number one cause of preventable death in the U.S.
- 90% of smokers start before the age of 18.
- Secondhand smoke kills about 50,000 US nonsmokers each year, (including 900 infants.)
- 58 million nonsmokers in US are exposed to secondhand smoke.
- There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.
- Even brief exposure to secondhand smoke can cause asthma attacks.
- Air near an outdoor smoker can be 50 times more toxic than surrounding air.
- Tobacco smoke is more harmful than exhaust from a diesel engine.
- Going smoke-free reduces litter and loitering.
- Smoking in public view causes children to start smoking.
- Smoking in public view makes it harder for people trying to quit