MATFORCE Mission: With determination and integrity, we, the citizens of Yavapai County, commit to working in partnership to build healthier communities by striving to eliminate substance abuse and its effects.

MATFORCE Congratulates Youth Poster Contest Winners

MATFORCE announces Ashley Wassell, an 11-year old student from Big Park School in Sedona, and Gage Sloniger, a 13-year old student from Mountain View Preparatory School in Cottonwood, are the grand prize winners of the MATFORCE 2016 Youth Poster Contest. In honor of their outstanding entries, these winners will each receive a $250 cash award. Winning posters will be featured in MATFORCE substance abuse prevention materials, including posters, in prevention workbooks for schools and on the MATFORCE website. The Yavapai County Sheriff’s Office assists with this event.

In addition to grand prize, first place winners were selected in seven different age categories. First place winners each will receive a $25 gift card. First place winners by category are: Age 5/6 - Jasmine Bryant, American Heritage Academy in Cottonwood; Age 7/8 - Brooklyn Renfroe, Mountain View Elementary School in Prescott Valley; Age 9/10 - Collin Riely Handley, Granite Mountain School in Prescott; Age 11/12 - Kayla Shimko, Granite Mountain Middle School in Prescott; Age 13/14 - Gicel Olivas, Camp Verde High School; Age 15/16 - Usualdo Herrera, Camp Verde High School; and Age 17/18 - Daan Enrique-Mata of Chino Valley.

MATFORCE also commends honorable mention winners, who will receive a $10 gift card: Gage Patrick Jochim, Maven Mestas, Thalia Rocha, Jose Vearla, Camden Stockbridge and Jess Burress of American Heritage Academy in Cottonwood; Naino Misra of Bagdad Schools; Iliana Heitzman of Basis Prescott; Ash-Lee Lewis, Stephanie Vanskinner, Pilar Picazo-Valdez, William Schultz, Logan Pratt, Joseph Kovalyeyk, AJ Martin, Alyfous Beauty, Sadie Cooper and Malia Rodriguez of Camp Verde High School; Adelina Carenas, Isabel Diane Mares and Phoebe Carnes of Canon School in Black Canyon City; Makenzie Suercl and Danielle Carter of Cottonwood Middle School; Erin Milvesnich, Savannah Smith, Amanda Lange, Katelyn Walz and Robin Webb of Granite Mountain School in Prescott; Alyssah Marin, Raylee Cunningham, Gage Cunningham, Devyn Blackmore and Tylar Blackmore of Hillside Elementary School in Bagdad; Addison Renfroe of Mountain View Elementary School in Prescott Valley; Ryan Tarp of Prescott Valley Charter School; Jade Fichera and Sabrina Glancy of Prescott; and Carlos Luna and Nate Umbower of Prescott Valley.

Winning posters can be viewed at matforce.org. Beginning in June, winning posters will be displayed throughout Yavapai County in the MATFORCE Youth Poster Contest Road Show. Watch for the upcoming schedule at matforce.org.

Don’t do drugs because you’ll puff, and puff and blow your life away.

Winning poster by Ashley Wassell from Big Park School in Sedona.

Life is better before addiction.
Say NO to drugs, and YES to life.

Winning poster by Gage Sloniger from Mountain View Preparatory School in Cottonwood.
MATFORCE congratulates winners of its annual video contest. Area youth ages 11 to 18 were invited to let their voices be heard by creating an original short video that makes a positive statement about reducing drug and alcohol abuse.

First, second and third place winners were awarded in two categories: middle school and high school. First place winners in each category received $300, second place earned a $200 award and $100 was given to third place winners. Honorable mention winners received $25.

Merilee Fowler, Executive Director, said, “We are so excited to have 27 powerful entries in the video contest. The students did a remarkable job expressing the harms and devastation of drug use. It is an honor to recognize their great work.”

In the middle school category, first place was awarded to Trenton Gullikson of Mile High Middle School and Micah Peterson, homeschooled, who are both from Prescott. Second place was awarded to Emmanuel Chaidez and third place was awarded to Lesly Castillo, who are both from Glassford Hill Middle School in Prescott Valley.

In the high school category, first place was awarded to Cameron Bloniarz from Mingus Union High School in Cottonwood. Brett Lorio, Ethan Westling and Zommy Zuhlke, who are also from Mingus Union, earned second place. Third place was awarded to Team Digital from Camp Verde High School, which includes: Lloyd Foreman, Sam Maynard, Brent Miller, Sam Swick, Nick Daniels, Robert Fafrowicz, Cody Fant, Enrique Garcia, Jeff Glass, Thomas Herrera, Madison Johnson, Gage Moya, Jahlin Smith, Sam Villalobos and Nick Westervelt.

Honorable mention winners include: Prescott High School PAL Club members Sidney Erdahl, Sydney Dicker, Maddison Pierce, Maddy Thein, Maddy Courey, Isaiah Kaitischuck, and Yahri Greene; Prescott Valley’s Glassford Hill Middle School students Maria Estrada, Lesly Castillo and Joanna Espinoza; Cottonwood’s Mingus Union High School students Breanna Page, Christina Rodriguez, Sarah Vance, Ean Ganem, Preston Chalmers, Andrew Hite, Elie Abi Hanna, Christyana Fletcher, Stephany Bourne, Lilly Sanchez, Bailey Frank, Aubrey Boulet, Sierra Romero and Sonny DeCrosta.

Winning videos will be used by MATFORCE at community events and as public service announcements on TV and radio. The videos can be viewed online at matforce.org.