

THE COALITION CONNECTION



Monthly Newsletter of the South Mountain W.O.R.K.S Coalition

UPCOMING TEAM MEETINGS/EVENTS

POLICY & SUSTAINABILITY
JUNE 7TH | 10:30AM-11:30AM

COALITION MEETING
JUNE 11TH | 10:00AM-11:30AM

EVENT & ACTIVITIES
JUNE 15TH | 2:30PM-3:00PM

PUBLIC RELATIONS
JUNE 16TH | 12PM-1PM

TRAUMA INFORMED COMMUNITY
JUNE 18TH | 2:00PM-3:30PM

SOUTH PHOENIX HARM REDUCTION
JUNE 26TH | 2:00PM-3:30PM

YOUTH COUNCIL:
PLANNING & RECRUITING FOR FALL

JUNETEENTH
JUNE 19TH | 5:00PM-10:00PM



Summer Sessions & Connections

BY KARA BREI, MC, NCC

Summer is finally here! But not only is it a time to have fun, vacation and relax, for many it's a time to catch up, get ahead and reconnect. Making up for the learning losses from the pandemic will likely last multiple summers. However, this summer should be about returning to normalcy, gaining new skills and instilling hope.

Over the summer, the Coalition is offering a variety of youth opportunities to build resilience, learn new coping skills, and understand peer support. Currently, SMWORKS is working with South Mountain High School's Freshman Academy educating on substance use, depression, peer support and resilience. This summer SMWORKS will be working with a variety of schools and youth organizations providing resources and opportunities to inspired and reengage. Lets us know how we can support!

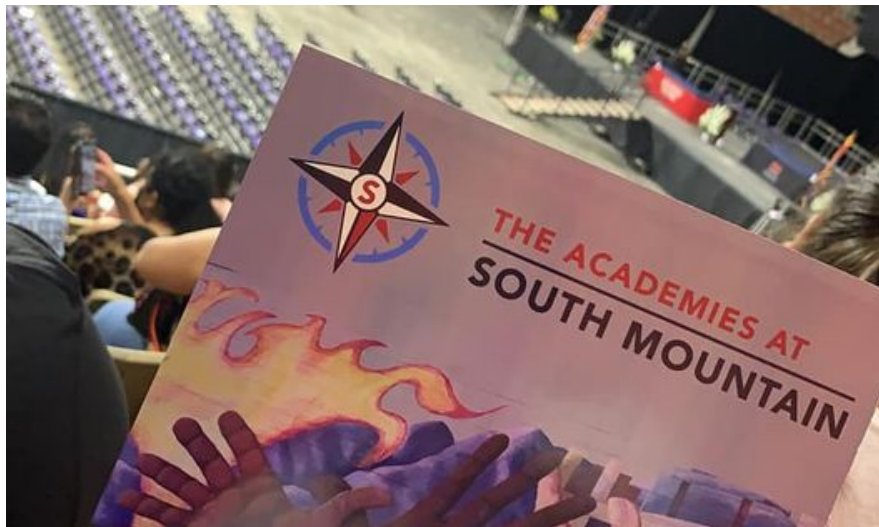
FIND MEETINGS AND EVENTS LINKS HERE:
[HTTPS://LINKTR.EE/SOUTH_MOUNTAIN_W
ORKS](https://linktr.ee/south_mountain_works)



COALITION SPOTLIGHT (COMING SOON)

SOUTH MOUNTAIN WORKS CAMPAIGN
TAKE ACTION, TAKE CHARGE AND PREVENT
YOUTH ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE.

WWW.SOUTHMOUNTAINWORKS.ORG



The Resilient Class of 2021

BY SHOMARI JACKSON MPA

On May 20th, 2021, South Mountain High School Seniors walked down the aisle for graduation. To see so many hopeful and excited students was exhilarating, especially after a long, uncertain and stressful school year. This graduation was special and filled with family, friends, mask and tons of support. As our very own youth council leader Audrey Sweten stated during her Valedictorian speech "We are stronger together than we will ever be alone".

Over the last year, Audrey has been a beacon of hope not only for her peers but for her community as well. In her one year as a youth council member Audrey was eager to give back and be involved. She attended events like Youth Council Yoga Day, packed food boxes, was a keynote speaker at Youth Advocacy Day at The Capitol, and helped with park clean ups inspiring her to lead the youth council to work with the City of Phoenix to adopt Momo Park. All of this while maintaining a 4.5 GPA and doing a number of extra curricula school activities. Over summer, Audrey will serve as the first SMWORKS youth Advisory Board member setting the tone for future youth board members.

We thank Audrey for her dedication, however, she would not be the only student who dedicated their year to the youth council and graduated this year. We are so grateful for students like Salvador Rodriguez (Cesar Chavez), Pamela Ortiz (Cesar Chavez), Susan Montegro (South Mountain). We want to congratulate them and all of the class of 2021.

"The class of 2021 is extremely resilient... we survived high school in a pandemic and what a journey that has been"

Audrey Sweten

**YOUTH COUNCIL
SMWORKS ADVISORY BOARD**



SOUTH MOUNTAIN WORKS COALITION MISSION:
TO EDUCATE, EQUIP, AND EMPOWER
COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO CREATE A DRUG FREE
FUTURE FOR CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILIES.

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