Consent Form for Research Study

Dear Parent,

I am a professor in the Department of Communication at Rutgers University working with Dr. Michael Hecht and Dr. Michelle Miller-Day of REAL Prevention to conduct a research study with high school students in groups and 4-H clubs. Your child’s group, 4-H club and state has allowed us to contact you to request permission for your son/daughter to participate in the study. Group leaders or 4-H Liaisons will briefly explain the study to the adolescents who have returned this permission slip, and also ask for their agreement to participate. The purpose of this project is to evaluate an engaging e-learning program, REAL media, that groups and 4-H can use to discourage youth alcohol and other substance use.

The title of the research project is: **Interactive technology for media literacy drug prevention in community groups.** Many clubs that participate will use REAL media, which will either be completed in group or 4-H club meetings or outside of 4-H, as determined by your adolescent’s club leader. The program takes about 90 minutes to complete, and then members are also asked to create an anti-substance message in the form of a poster or brief video using techniques they learn about in the program. Members can enter their posters/videos in an online Facebook contest where it can be shared with peers, family, and others through social media. Some clubs will not use the curriculum initially but may at a later time (1-2 years). All participants will be asked to fill out up to four questionnaires online over the next year. Each online survey will take less than 30 minutes to complete. Each adolescent will receive a link to access the online data collection system and deadlines for completion of the surveys. Your adolescent will not put their name on the survey. Instead, they will be assigned a unique ID# that will be used to match the questionnaire responses over time. Your adolescent may skip any questions that s/he is not comfortable with, and s/he may decide to stop participating at any time without any penalty to him/her.

There are some risks to your adolescent for participating in this study, specifically s/he will be asked about questions about risk behavior including drinking, substance use, and smoking/tobacco. Your adolescent may benefit from participation by learning media literacy skills and the $50 total credit in incentives that s/he will receive upon completion of the surveys ($10 each for surveys 1-3, and $20 for survey 4). At the end of the surveys there will be instructions for incentive delivery (mailed to provided address). In addition, the 3 highest rated posters and 3 highest rated videos will be awarded prizes: $250 for 1st place, $100 for 2nd place, and $50 for 3rd place. All posters and video entries become the property of your group, 4-H, Rutgers University, and REAL Prevention, LLC for marketing and research purposes. The study will not affect your child’s ability to participate in other

Questions? email: realmedia4-H@rutgers.edu website: http://realmedia4-H.rutgers.edu/
unrelated current and future group or 4-H activities. The data collected may lead to increased understanding of how to develop school or club based substance use curricula. If you would like to have a report of the study when it is completed, please indicate this at the bottom of this form.

Research studies like this one are designed to determine whether the REAL media program is effective. Dr. Greene (one of the people leading this study), REAL Prevention (a company co-leading the study), and Dr. Banerjee (a researcher on the project) are creators of the REAL media program being studied. If research shows that the program is effective, they would receive profits from any sales of the program.

This research is confidential. Confidential means that the research records will include some information about your son/daughter, such as age, gender, address, and race. We will keep this information protected by limiting access to the research data and keeping it in a secure location. The research team and the Institutional Review Board at Rutgers University are the only parties that will be allowed to see the data, except as may be required by law. If a report of this study is published, or the results are presented at a professional conference, only group results will be stated, unless you have agreed otherwise. Although the data are confidential, it is possible your child’s identity will be linked to the poster/video submitted to the online Facebook contest.

This research is covered by a Certificate of Confidentiality from the National Institutes of Health. The researchers with this Certificate may not disclose or use information, documents, or biospecimens that may identify you in any federal, state, or local civil, criminal, administrative, legislative, or other action, suit, or proceeding, or be used as evidence, for example, if there is a court subpoena, unless you have consented for this use. Information, documents, or biospecimens protected by this Certificate cannot be disclosed to anyone else who is not connected with the research except, if there is a federal, state, or local law that requires disclosure (such as to report child abuse or communicable diseases but not for federal, state, or local civil, criminal, administrative, legislative, or other proceedings, see below); if you have consented to the disclosure, including for your medical treatment; or if it is used for other scientific research, as allowed by federal regulations protecting research subjects.

The Certificate cannot be used to refuse a request for information from personnel of the United States federal or state government agency sponsoring the project that is needed for auditing or program evaluation by the National Institutes of Health which is funding this project or for information that must be disclosed in order to meet the requirements of the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA). You should understand that a Certificate of Confidentiality does not prevent you from voluntarily releasing information about yourself or your involvement in this research. If you want your research information released to an insurer, medical care provider, or any other person not connected with the research, you must provide consent to allow the researchers to release it.

The Certificate of Confidentiality will not be used to prevent disclosure as required by federal, state, or local law in specific circumstances such as: if your child or others are identified as being at risk for serious harm. If we learn that your child or someone else is threatened with serious harm, such as a child or an elderly person being abused, we may give out this information to the appropriate authorities if necessary to protect your child or others.

The research protocol was approved by the Rutgers Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects (#15-544Re on 12/06/17 and expires on 12/05/18).
If you have any questions about the research, you may contact me at (848) 932-8715, klgreene@rutgers.edu, Rutgers University, Department of Communication, 4 Huntington St., New Brunswick, NJ, 08901-1070. We have also created a study specific website (http://realmedia4-H.rutgers.edu/), email (realmedia4-H@rutgers.edu), and phone number (732 337-7124) to assist with any questions.

If you have any questions about your adolescent’s rights as a research subject, you may contact the IRB Administrator at:

Institutional Review Board, Rutgers University, the State University of New Jersey
335 George Street
Liberty Plaza / 3rd Floor / Suite 3200
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Telephone: 732-235-9806
Email: humansubjects@orsp.rutgers.edu

Your adolescent’s participation in this study is completely voluntary. She or he is free to withdraw at any time and can skip any items. If you would like to allow your son/daughter to participate, please sign and return the attached permission slip. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathryn Greene

___________________________ has my permission to participate in the research study, "Interactive technology for media literacy drug prevention in community groups", that will be conducted by Dr. Kathryn Greene and colleagues at REAL Prevention.

Name of School/State or 4-H Club/State: ________________________/State: ________

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _________________________ Date: ______________

Parent/Guardian’s email address: ________________________________

Please check indicate if you would like a copy of the REAL media study report upon completion:

____ I do not want a copy of the REAL media study report when it is completed.

____ I want a copy of the REAL media study report when it is completed. Please send it to me at (insert email or address here, and note that this will take at least one year)

Below, please provide contact information for your teen so that we may contact him/her to participate in the online surveys, obtain survey incentives and begin to access the program website.

Teen’s email address (must be unique to him/her): ________________________________

Teen’s phone number: ________________________________

Is this phone: ____ Cell  ____ Landline  [cell preferred, to text links for project]

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