

What does 'Above the Influence' mean to you?

Connor Link and Cole Lego tied for having the most creative, best thought out message for the Above the Influence campaign poster contest. Photos submitted

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Ask Conner Link, age 11, and Cole Lego, soon to be 9, and they will tell you "above the influence" is about doing what you know is right and standing up to peer pressure, no matter what other influences are around you.

It's doing your own thing; being who you are; and saying "no" to drugs and alcohol.

The Walker Unit with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Leech Lake Area, have been learning about peer pressure and how to do the right thing when it comes to making tough decisions on a daily basis.

During November and December, club members had chances to role play with staff a few different scenarios that involved resisting peer pressure: saying no to drugs and alcohol; standing up to bullying; and helping others to make healthy decisions. Club members also took an online quiz at the "Above the Influence" website to learn their level of strength when it comes to resisting that peer pressure.

When the club held a poster contest for the most creative, best thought out message of the "Above the Influence" campaign, it did not take long for club members to get to work on their designs.

Conner and Cole were two who took the contest to a new level. They put much thought into planning their poster, and one club member even took his home to finish it. The following week, with help from family and friends, the club voted on the most creative and most meaningful poster.

With a two-way tie, club members Connor and Cole each took home a \$5 gift card to a store of their choice.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Leech Lake Area are a member of the Working Together Coalition and would like to thank Kelly Felton for the idea for a poster contest!

To volunteer at the Boys & Girls Club, check out the website at www.bgcleechlake.com or contact Kelcie at (218) 547-1853, extension 2.