



## 31<sup>st</sup> of May → World No Tobacco Day

### SWAT youth want to make every day WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY

#### Cigarette butt cleanups raise awareness of toxic problem

Research shows that cigarette butts do not biodegrade under normal circumstances. Instead, they leach out their 7,000 chemicals, many environmentally toxic, and at least 50 are known human carcinogens. Harmful chemicals such as nicotine, arsenic, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and heavy metals are released and they are acutely toxic to aquatic organisms such as fish. These chemicals come from across the tobacco production process, including pesticides, fertilizers, additives, the cellulose acetate filter, and combustion products generated by smoking cigarettes.

**Source:** Tobacco and its environmental impact: an overview. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2017. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

In recognition of **World No Tobacco Day** and to raise awareness of the problem of cigarette butt litter, employees at two locations of the Florida Department of Health in Volusia County cleaned up the grounds and parking lots, collecting 830 butts.



The official annual date for World No Tobacco Day is May 31<sup>st</sup>, but SWAT clubs were encouraged to participate early so they could fit it in before the end of the school year. **Silver Sands Middle School** SWAT created educational displays. SWAT member **Ayden Montgomery** displayed his in the school cafeteria.



SWAT members at **Holly Hill School** organized a cigarette butt cleanup on the school campus and perimeter. Their report indicates students were shocked at the number of butts thrown from cars.



At **DeLand High School** SWAT Seniors gave a talk to the student body on tobacco issues, including tobacco advertising, health consequences, and money wasted on buying tobacco products.

**Basilica School of St. Paul** SWAT educated youth at a community event. The SWAT members pictured on the right are: **Ruchon Williams, JaNiya Milton, Ta'myia Lockley, and Mia Freeman.**



#### About the Partnership:

The **Tobacco Free Volusia County Partnership** is a community organization that works to educate others about tobacco use, protect kids from tobacco, strengthen local policies, and protect the public from secondhand smoke. We will bring tobacco education to your business or community event. Contact Kristen Mialki at 386-274-0601  
[Kristen.Mialki@FLHealth.gov](mailto:Kristen.Mialki@FLHealth.gov).

#### Everyone is Welcome!

The Partnership meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 4 p.m. at the Florida Department of Health in Volusia County at 1845 Holsonback Drive in Daytona Beach. The next meeting will be on **June 26, 2017**. Can't attend meetings but want to participate? Please contact us.