

## Email sent out to DARE Officers from IA DARE President

First, I would like to say it was great we were able to have our annual Iowa DARE Conference this summer. Hopefully things continue to improve and we strive for even better days ahead. Many of you have settled into your routine DARE roles and are building relationships with the youth of your community. I wish you the best of luck this year.

I have been in law enforcement for 20 years and have seen a lot of things change in that timeframe, some good and some not so good. As things change and policies change, we as officers adapt the best we can so we can continue to be a positive role model to others. We were certainly challenged last school year but for the schools that allowed DARE Officers into their classrooms shows the importance of what WE do. In 2018, myself and another Le Mas Officer attended the Illinois DARE DOT in Plainfield, IL. With only three years instructing I know there is still a lot for me to learn. Every year our goal is to forge a relationship with the youth and law enforcement throughout our community and I feel our department has succeeded in doing that.

The 2022 Iowa DARE Conference will be held in Le Mars starting Sunday July 10 thru Tuesday July 12, 2022. We are excited to bring the conference back to our community and hope to have a great turnout. The Baymont Inn has generously given us a discounted rate and has reserved a block of 40 rooms. The cut-off date for the block of rooms reserved under, IOWA DARE ASSOCIATION will be June 10, 2022 so feel free to make reservations early and get it out of the way. The location will be announced the first part of 2022 as the police department is renovating and may be able to host the conference.

This year our theme is going to be DARE to Stand Out. The last two years I have read a lot of 5<sup>th</sup> grade essays and I have been more impressed with the shy quiet student's essays than the students that always raise their hands. Those students I feel can be influential to their classmates but need the extra encouragement to stand out. Challenge the students on how they can Stand Out and be a positive influence to a classmate, their teacher and their school.

Justin Daale

9-21-21

