

National Drug Court Month Event Ideas

There are many types of events you can schedule in addition to a graduation ceremony that will generate media interest, get the community involved, and show off the success of your court to Members of Congress and other elected officials.

Events that improve the community or bring unlikely groups together will generate interest:

- Reporters will want to cover **sports games or tournaments** that feature court participants squaring off against law enforcement and/or court staff.
- **Clean up** a local park, roadway, or school, and take before-and-after photos.
- Host a **walk, run, or bike ride** that challenges treatment court staff to compete against participants or law enforcement.
- Hold a **community picnic** and invite past graduates, current participants, the court staff, and the families of these diverse groups to unite behind your court's mission.



Events that reach out to important demographics or highlight community partners are also valuable:

- Organize a **school assembly** and ask court participants or graduates to speak to local youth about their experiences.
- Hold a **donation drive** for a local foodbank or charity to get local businesses involved with your court, develop relationships, and generate future financial support.
- Similarly, hold a **fundraiser** (such as a silent auction, car wash, or ticketed dinner) to generate funds for your court program or for important local charities.

Remember, Members of Congress and other elected officials should be invited to attend! See page xx for detailed instructions on how to do this.