



## ***Escape the Haze: Facts Over Fumes***

**April 29 & 30, 2025 | 9:30am-3:30pm | Columbia, SC**

*This is the first statewide conference focusing on youth vaping for students.*

*This conference is planned and facilitated with South Carolina students who care about their fellow teens.*

To Whom It May Concern:

**Vaping among youth has become a significant concern in schools throughout South Carolina.** This alarming trend requires immediate attention and collective action. Recent data show that about 1 in 5 teenagers in South Carolina regularly vape. According to the SC Department of Public Health, “the nicotine found in commercial tobacco products, including the majority of e-cigarettes and vapes, is highly addictive and is related to many health conditions (diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, et al.). In addition, studies show that vaping nicotine increases feelings of anxiety, causes mood swings, and interferes with concentration and focus.”

The vaping industry is **aggressively targeting and deceptively marketing** to our future generation. We need your help to combat this issue.

Smokefree SC is working with two youth groups in our state who are dedicated to and passionate about educating their fellow peers about the dangers associated with vaping: The Pickens County Youth Board and the Orangeburg F.I.R.E Coalition. These groups are taking a proactive approach and are hosting the first annual statewide conference focused on youth vaping. Students from these coalitions will lead breakout sessions for the 100+ middle and high school youth in attendance. Attendees will learn about the dangers associated with nicotine use, understand the tricks and tactics used by the vaping industry, and discover ways they can take an active role in advocating for change in their own communities.

**We want you to be included in this inaugural day of action! Please review the attached sponsorship options to learn how you can play a role in creating a healthier future for South Carolina youth!**



Sincerely,  
Escape the Haze Planning Committee:  
Orangeburg F.I.R.E. Coalition  
Pickens County Youth Board  
Smokefree SC

#### *About the Youth Coalitions:*

*“The Fearless Individuals Reaching Excellence (F.I.R.E.) Youth Coalition aims to reduce youth substance use in the counties of Orangeburg, Bamberg and Calhoun. The group began in June 2020 and consists of high school students ages 14-18 who attend different schools within the three counties. Many of their initiatives include drug free awareness events, an afterschool book club program, health fairs, and creating social media content. The group also utilizes local data to advocate for policy changes in their communities. They also collaborate with local community organizations to promote prevention efforts. Their belief is that making prevention a priority amongst families, schools, and other community leaders will decrease youth access to substances and overall reduction of use.”*

*“The Behavioral Health Services of Pickens County Youth Board is a dynamic group of teens dedicated to substance use prevention, mental health promotion, and suicide prevention. These student leaders engage their peers through creative outreach, community projects, and leadership development. Notable initiatives include the youth-led podcast "but they don't," annual leadership retreats, and innovative social media campaigns. By empowering youth voices, the Youth Board fosters positive change and builds a healthier, safer community for all. The PCYB celebrated its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024.”*



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### Sponsorship Types

Sponsor Benefits	Supporter \$250	Organizer \$500	Advocate \$1,000
Conference Registrations	1	2	3
Verbal acknowledgement during the conference	✓	✓	✓
Organization name listed on conference website and acknowledged on social media	✓	✓	✓
Organization logo on conference website		✓	✓
Linked organization logo on conference website		✓	✓
Organization tagged in social media posts			✓
Organization logo on official conference agenda and on appropriate swag items distributed to attendees			✓

### SPONSOR FORM

Organization/Contributor Name for Publicity: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Website URL: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsorship Level: ☐ Advocate \$1,000 ☐ Organizer \$500 ☐ Supporter \$250

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete and return this form by March 31, 2025.**

Email the form or ask questions: [terra@smokefreesc.org](mailto:terra@smokefreesc.org)

For more information about Smokefree SC, please visit our website: [www.smokefreesc.org](http://www.smokefreesc.org)