



A Program of Lions
Clubs International
Foundation

Lions Quest or D.A.R.E.?

Here are four significant differences between Lions Quest and D.A.R.E. that might be helpful for Lions and schools to recognize:

1. Drug Awareness Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) is an information-based program that focuses on toxicology and pharmacology of illegal drugs, with some newly added bullying prevention lessons. Lions Quest is a broad-based life skills approach, an approach that is recognized by the World Health Organization, National Institute for Drug Abuse, and other experts, as more effective than simply sharing information about drugs. Life skills education teaches and reinforces the skills necessary for young people to apply their knowledge of drugs, resist negative peer pressure, set goals, and develop positive, healthy behaviors.
2. Due to its lack of evaluation outcomes, D.A.R.E. cannot be found on any of the recent lists distributed by the United States Department of Education, the National Institute for Drug Abuse, or the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning. With a long history of research-based program development and rigorous evaluation outcomes, Lions Quest programs have been recognized by all three of the aforementioned groups.
3. A law enforcement officer facilitates D.A.R.E. instruction once per week, over an 8-week period in fifth or seventh grade. Lions Quest is integrated across the curriculum by a trained and certified classroom teacher, thereby taking advantage of the opportunity for the “teachable moment” that occurs in every classroom. This process also allows for the teacher to infuse and reinforce concepts throughout the school year ensuring that they become a natural way of life. (We do agree that a positive relationship can be established between officers in the classroom and young people, one of the stronger points of the D.A.R.E. program.)
4. D.A.R.E. is funded through federal, state, and local taxes. This makes D.A.R.E. susceptible to local funding cuts, administration changes within the law enforcement agency, and/or change in priorities among law enforcement agencies in a given locale. Lions Quest programs are eligible for Safe and Drug Free Schools funds, as well other federal funding related to youth development including character education and service-learning. Lions Quest is found on the approved programs list for many states’ tobacco settlement funding, opening this option for implementation of Lions Quest in the schools. In addition, Lions Quest provides local Lions clubs as community allies, often bringing both financial and important volunteer support, which is not available with D.A.R.E.