



# ATF News

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives  
New York Field Division

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DAY AT SHEA WITH THE

## ATF, The Federal Drug Agents Foundation and The New York Mets Team Up for Kids' Sake

NEW YORK -- William G. McMahon, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) New York Field Division, in conjunction with the Federal Drug Agents Foundation (FDAF) and the New York Mets announced today that the Mets will step up to the plate on **Thursday, May 20, 2004, at 1:10 p.m.**, to help combat violence and gangs.

For the first time the Mets have invited 100 students that recently graduated from the **Gang Resistance Education And Training Program (G.R.E.A.T.)**, from the Paul Robeson Public School 191 in Bedford Stuyvesant to be their guests at a Mets game. It is the Mets way of supporting the students in their quest to remain gang and violence free. The Mets will take on the St. Louis Cardinals. The FDAF, a non-profit organization, works closely with ATF and other law enforcement agencies with their public initiatives and outreach programs. The FDAF is providing the transportation to the game as well as meals for all students and school personnel.

Students attending the game will be wearing their G.R.E.A.T. 'COLORS' in honor of their achievements in remaining gang free. Through the G.R.E.A.T. program all of the students are presented lessons, in an interactive setting by law enforcement officers, which impart the importance of becoming responsible members of their communities by setting goals, resisting pressures, learning how to resolve conflicts, and understanding how gangs impact the quality of their life.

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The students will be chaperoned by school administrators, teachers and volunteers and are a representative sample of the approximately 80,000 students that have participated in the G.R.E.A.T. program in NY City since 1995.

The **Gang Resistance Education And Training** Program was initiated in 1991 to deter youthful violence and crime by reducing involvement in gangs. ATF currently has numerous partnerships with local and state agencies, as well as the Boys and Girls Club of America and the Police Athletic League (PAL). G.R.E.A.T. teachers are federal, state and local law enforcement officers who teach elementary and middle school students about the destructive consequences of gang membership.

Recreational and other community-outreach programs supplement the classroom instruction. The goals of the G.R.E.A.T. program include reducing violent youth crime, resolving conflicts without violence, providing youth with the skills to make sound choices, activities for G.R.E.A.T. graduates during summer months, involving teachers, parents, and communities and teaching the students to recognize the indicators of gang involvement in their communities.

To date, approximately 6,800 officers from more than 2,000 agencies representing the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Bermuda and military personnel from overseas bases have been trained to present the core curriculum in elementary and middle school classrooms. The estimated cumulative number of students who have received the G.R.E.A.T. training exceeds 3.8 million nationwide.

Media representatives interested in an interview with the New York Mets regarding this event may contact Kirk King at (718) -803-4037. ATF or FDAF inquiries may be directed to Special Agent Joseph Green at (718) 650-4000.

Visit G.R.E.A.T. on the Web at <http://www.atf.gov/great/index.htm> for additional information and a link to find participating law enforcement agencies in New York.

For more information about the Mets, visit their web site at [http://newyork.mets.mlb.com/NASApp/mlb/index.jsp?c\\_id=nym](http://newyork.mets.mlb.com/NASApp/mlb/index.jsp?c_id=nym)

Inquiries regarding the Federal Drug Agents Foundation may be directed to <http://www.fdaf.net/>

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