

THE EXCELLENCE PROJECT (EP)

A community collaboration working towards the continual reduction of underage drinking and illegal substance use.

MODEL SOCIAL HOST LIABILITY ORDINANCE—STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

THE PROBLEM

- Local and national research shows home parties are among the most problematic settings for underage and young adult binge drinking.
 - Assaults, rapes, deaths, injuries, and other crimes stem from home parties.
 - Impaired driving, noise and other disturbances to community.
 - Enforcement costs— from January 1-December 31, 2008 SSPD had 462 noise complaint cases. In this same time period, SSPD reports that 256 minors were involved in alcohol related cases.
- Home parties are particularly problematic because of three factors:
 - Number of persons, underage at “unsupervised” parties;
 - Large quantities of alcohol consumed, alcohol poisonings, violence, other crimes; and
 - Limited tools for law enforcement and municipalities.
 - State Law does not prohibit youth consumption of alcohol provided by youth’s parent/guardian, under the supervision of parent/guardian.
 - Limited, if any, consequences for repeat hosts of underage and unruly drinking parties.

THE POLICY SOLUTION: SOCIAL HOST LIABILITY

Hold individuals responsible for underage drinking events on property they own, lease or otherwise control—targeting the venue or setting where problems exist.

Features	Benefits
Civil Violation	Easy to administer, Routt County District and County courts not required (Steamboat Springs Municipal Court to enforce)
First offense \$500	Fines collected. Minimum of 24 hours of community service (to be completed outside of work/school hours); complete alcohol education program (offender’s expense).
Second offense \$750	Fines collected. Minimum of 24 hours of community service (to be completed outside of work/school hours); complete alcohol education program (offender’s expense).
Third offense \$999	Fines collected. Minimum of 24 hours of community service (to be completed outside of work/school hours); complete alcohol education program (offender’s expense)
Cumulative Penalties	Strong deterrent effect. Deters repeat offenders who create costs to the City, both in terms of actual costs, and officer availability for other calls.
Judicial Discretion	Option to sentence offenders to term in Routt County jail in accordance with Section 1-15 of the Steamboat Springs Municipal Code. Agreements in place to house Defendants in Jackson and Moffat County, from respective Sheriffs, free of charge for short-term prisoners.

