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## Sign Up for 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Rock-a-thon

Calling all sixth through ninth graders in Abington Township public, private, and parochial schools! Sign up now for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Rock-a-thon being held at Abington Junior High School from 7:00 p.m. Friday, March 22 until 7:00 a.m. Saturday, March 23. There are places for 65 teams of five. Each team member will rock for 15 minutes and then have an hour to enjoy pizza, movies, games, and live bands. This year's event will raise awareness and funds to ease the suffering of child abuse. For information, students should contact either their school's police liaison officer or Abington Police Detective Joseph Dalton at 215-884-4700 ext. 2493 or during non-school hours at 215-267-536-1098. Forms are available outside Room 151 at Abington Junior High School.

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## *YMCA Sponsors Cheergems Competition Squads*

**Cheergems** for competitive cheerleading squads is one of the newest programs for youth at the Abington YMCA. With an advisor and two experienced coaches, this group trains to compete on a regional level that includes southeastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware. They combine gymnastics, dance, aerobics, and standard cheerleading moves and skills in their routines.

Cheergems offers two squads, a senior squad for those 15-18 and a junior squad for 12-14 year-olds. To find out about spring tryout dates and fees, contact Senior Program Director Ayanna Traylor at 215-884-9622. Ayanna also has information about the YMCA's continuing programs for youth, including **Black Achievers**, **Leaders Club**, and **Teen and Tween Nights**.

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## Abington Police Offer The K.I.S.S. of Child Safety

Expectant parents prepare for their new arrival by buying a car seat to bring their infant home safely from the hospital. Parents of a toddler or preschooler notice their child outgrowing a current car seat and purchase a booster seat. It all seems simple. But is it really that easy?

The Abington Police Department knows otherwise and has taken on the task of protecting the travels of infants and young children. The Department has established the **Kids In Safety Seats (K.I.S.S.)** program designed to ensure that child safety seats and seatbelts are used correctly to prevent injury and save lives. Police Chief William J. Kelly explains, "Every day, children up to 12 years old sustain serious injuries or die in motor vehicle crashes. Many such injuries and deaths can be avoided with the correct use of child safety seats and seatbelts."

With 30 different seatbelt systems in cars today, it is imperative that parents and

childcare providers learn about appropriate seating for their vehicles and correct installation and child placement. The Abington Police Department offers 12 AAA certified technicians who can now teach adults how to install car seats and place young occupants correctly. They will educate parents and caretakers on an individual basis either at their residence, at the Abington police station, or through a public program, such as inspection stations at local car dealerships. This service is provided free to Abington Township residents through funding from Citizens And Police Together (C.A.P.T.). The cost is a nominal \$20 to non-residents. If you are either a parent, grandparent, or childcare provider who would like to receive instruction from one of the technicians, or you represent a business or community organization that would like to set up a checkpoint, call the Community Policing Division at 267-536-1071.

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