



The Future of Hug-a-Tree 03/2005

In November 2004, NASAR entered into an exclusive agreement with Hug-a-Tree founder, Ab Taylor, to re-design and re-distribute the program. NASAR plans to bring together a group of youth educators to modernize the existing materials during 2005.

“It is our goal to create a set of entertaining, informative, inexpensive training materials that will be widely used in traditional classrooms as well as in youth-based programs such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts,” said Janet Adere, NASAR Education Services Director.

In 2002, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) launched its own version of the Hug-a-Tree program, with Mr. Taylor’s permission. NASAR’s new ownership of the program will not supersede the Canadian program. RCMP will retain authority to distribute its program within Canada. Further, it is hoped that a collaborative effort between RCMP and NASAR will result in a continually updated combined program that will keep pace with the youth of today and those of tomorrow.

If you have been serving as a Hug-a-Tree Presenter, you are advised that the administration of the program now rests at NASAR Headquarters. Questions can be addressed to hugatree@nasar.org.

Goals for the New Program

- Maintain the “essence” of the program
 - Prevention is the key to child survival
 - Children must be taught to survive
 - A trained child usually becomes a safe adult
- Vitalize the program – infuse it with new enthusiasm
- Utilize state-of-the-art technology
- Enhance the basic program with ancillary materials such as word searches, crossword puzzles, coloring pages, role-play scenarios for the classroom
- Consider geographical differences as project gets underway (e.g., low desert, urban)
- Ensure program is consistent with existing SAR standards
- Establish a target number of children to be “touched” by the program over the next year, five years, ten years, etc., and make it a priority to reach these goals—our children are worth it.