

Holmdel High School Project Graduation

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. **What is Project Graduation (PG)?** Project Graduation is an event offered by high schools throughout the United States in which an organized adult supervised alcohol-free and substance-free post grad celebration, all-night party, is planned for the graduating high school class. This event for our seniors is provided at no cost to them and funded by donations and fundraisers held throughout the year to support this memorable evening. In recent years, Holmdel's Project Graduation has been held at the Atlantic Club in Manasquan. The night begins at 9:30pm the night of graduation and ends at approximately 4:30 am the next morning.

2. **Why do we have Project Graduation?** For over 25 years, Holmdel has provided graduating seniors a fun last night with their classmates - alcohol and substance free. Graduation night often times included a night of celebrating among students and would many times get out of control with drinking, substance abuse, driving - a dangerous mix which could result in a tragic situation. The event was created to keep Holmdel and our graduating students SAFE providing them with one last night together with all their classmates, no stress ,creating a lasting memory.

3. **How does my student register to attend?** A senior PG packet will go out which will include a permission slip and waiver. The students can drop the completed forms off at the main office or deliver to the mailbox home address on the form. All forms MUST be filled out to attend.

4. **What do the Graduates do all night?** Check-in begins in the high school commons between 9-9:30pm following graduation. At check-in, backpacks/bags are checked and cleaned out of all items not permitted (these items will be clear on the permission slip forms), they will then proceed to confirm via checklist all forms have been received and proceed to the gym to await bus departure to the event. The PG committee organizes entertainment which goes on all night long! In previous years we have been able to provide a photo booth, henna tattoo artists, tarot card readers, caricature artists, casino tables, mechanical bull, candy sushi bar, strolling magician, a hypnotist show and more! This is all in addition to the amenities at the event center. The additional entertainment is dependent upon YOU and fundraising throughout the year. Graduates will certainly not go hungry with unlimited food all night long, ranging from pizza, subs, chips, bagels and desserts. Around 3:30 am the graduates are gathered to the buses and head back to Holmdel High School.

5. **Are chaperones present?** YES! We have 20 adult overnight volunteers to chaperone in addition to our check-in staff to make sure everyone is safe. Volunteering for this event is an amazing way to see what PG is all about. The energy in the room will keep you awake!

6. **How does the PG Committee pay for this?** YOU! It costs approximately \$20,000 to give this gift to our students. We are 100% dependent on fundraising activities (Coupon Books, Shoprite gift card orders, lawn signs) in addition to donations from families, the community and businesses.

7. **Why should I donate now, my student is not a senior?** But they will be! Your continued support helps to ensure this night continues keeping our students and township safe while creating one last memory together!

8. **Is my donation tax-deductible?** HHS Project Graduation is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible, subject to IRS rules and regulations.

9. **How many of the seniors participate?** Our goal is to have 100% of graduates, but typically have about 90%!

10. **How can I help?** We need you both financially & physically! Please support the various fundraisers and/or make a donation – appeals go out throughout the year. We need parents to chaperone the night of the event. Also, please attend the monthly meeting for more about how you can help!

11. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Fernand at holmdelprojectgrad@gmail.com or at 732-221-9053. If you would like to make a donation, please make your check payable to Holmdel Project Graduation and mail it to Project Graduation 5 Emory Place, Holmdel, NJ 07733.