

Tobacco Free Marion County
P O Box 188
Pyatt, AR 72672

Dear _____,

I've got some good news! Everyone in Marion County now has the opportunity to work with friends, neighbors, and colleagues at work, school, church, and play to improve the health of ourselves and loved ones, and to improve the conditions under which we all live. Marion County Hometown Health proudly invites you to join Tobacco Free Marion County, a local grassroots coalition with members committed to our own Ozark neck of the woods and waters.

A recent Arkansas Department of Health survey identifies Marion County as having the highest rate of smokers in the state, 32% of our adult population. Because of this high number, we are concerned for the majority of citizens (68%) who choose not to smoke but still suffer the ill health effects from secondhand smoke. The smoke which comes from the burning tip of a cigarette has 20 times more toxins than the smoke inhaled through the filter. We think when our good neighbors who are smokers are informed of the harm they are inflicting, they will be more careful to smoke in places and situations which minimize harmful exposure to others.

Besides reducing secondhand smoke, we want to reduce youth access to tobacco products and to develop cessation services for tobacco users who ask for help in quitting smoking or using spit tobacco.

You can see that we have high hopes and need to have help from many and diverse members of our community, including smokers who know better than most the ill effects of a tobacco habit. We would like you to join our coalition and add your voice to the many who cherish our clean indoor air. Your membership costs nothing, and won't take more than an hour or so once a month for our regular meetings. Your presence and voice are important and your opinion will be heard by joining us at our next meeting on (date)_____ at (time)_____ in (location)_____.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tobacco Free Marion County
(870) 427-2620