Student Leadership Programs: Inspiring Greatness in Youth

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Session Overview

- Student Leadership Think Tank
- Why Get Involved?
- Leadership Principles
- Setting the Stage
- Ways to Use Student Leaders
- Sample Programs (grade specific, gender specific, schoolwide)
- Student Leadership Summit
- Leadership Training Resources
- Community Service Resources
Student Leadership Think Tank

- What does student leadership mean to me?
- What qualities are needed for good student leadership?
- How can students demonstrate leadership in the classroom, school and community?
- How will others benefit from student leadership?
- What activities exist or can be created to encourage student leadership?
Why Get Involved?

• To be proactive and not reactive

• To instill in students a sense of belonging and connectedness to their peers and school community

• To help students become resourceful and service-minded agents of change working collectively toward a common good in their present and future lives.

• To provide students with experiences that
  • build character
  • boost resiliency
  • promote a sense of purposefulness
Leadership Principles

• Help youth learn specific knowledge and skills related to leadership.

• Enable youth to understand the history, values and beliefs of their society.

• Facilitate the development of individual strengths and leadership styles.

• Facilitate the development of ethics, values and ethical reasoning.

• Promote awareness, understanding, and tolerance of other people, cultures and societies.

• Embody high expectations of, confidence in, and respect for the teens served.

• Emphasize experiential learning and provide opportunities for genuine leadership.

• Involve young people in service to others, to their community, their country and their world.

• Facilitate self-reflection and processing of learning both individually and cooperatively.

• Involve youth in collaborative experiences, teamwork and networking with peers.

• Involve youth in significant relationships with mentors, positive role models, or other nurturing adults.

• Be developed around stated purposes and goals.

Woyach and Cox (1997)
Setting the Stage

Planning the Program
• Who will be involved?
• How will they be selected?
• Solicit Sponsors
• New Program vs. Existing Program
• Identify a Need
• Set a Timeline

Implementing the Program
• Training
  • Before or After School
  • During a Class
  • Via Advisement Lessons
• Curriculum
  • See “Resources” near end
Ways to Use Student Leaders

• Serve as greeters or buddies to incoming students who are new to the school
• Give an informal tour to new students, introducing them to other peers, answering any questions they might have
• Provide more formal tours to visitors in the building, working directly with prospective parents.
• Identify students who could co-lead or assist with activities during core curriculum lessons (FKA classroom guidance)
• Technology Specialist

• Peer Helper Program
• Provide students with a leadership role in all school events (e.g., public speaking at open house, orientations, parent association meetings).
• Offer students a leadership role in admissions outreach to feeder schools. Match students to their former feeder schools in these efforts.
• With adult supervision, provide structured activities during parent nights.
• Staff Appreciation Events
• Promote Schoolwide Events
• Youth take the lead in planning and carrying out a search of community resources for youth
Sample Programs

Grade Level Specific
Gender Specific
Schoolwide
# Grade Level Specific

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<tr>
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<th>ACADEMIC</th>
<th>BEHAVIOR/ SOCIAL</th>
<th>CAREER</th>
<th>SERVICE PROJECTS (Examples)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>6TH Grade</strong></td>
<td>Test Taking Tips Promo</td>
<td>Dramatization of Handling Conflicts</td>
<td>Learning Styles Activities</td>
<td>Toys for Tots</td>
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<td><strong>7TH Grade</strong></td>
<td>Homework Club</td>
<td>Diversity Summit</td>
<td>Career Cluster Spotlight</td>
<td>Rivers of the World</td>
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<td>Education Packet</td>
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<td><strong>8TH Grade</strong></td>
<td>Peer Tutoring Program</td>
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<td>Career Day</td>
<td>Operation Cardboard: Helping the Homeless</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Peer Mediation Program</td>
<td>• Mix It Up Day</td>
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9/23/2015
Gender Specific

Men of Change

- Male Facilitator
- Dress for Success
- Discuss range of topics important to gender/Theme Based Lessons
- Field Trip
- Mentors from Community
- Job Shadowing with successful males
- Celebrate Accomplishments
- Community Service
- Male Leadership Breakfast

Ladies of Distinction

- Female Facilitator
- Same ideas as on the left
- Female Leadership Breakfast
- Empowerment videos from powerful women
- Book Clubs
- Skill Development
- Leadership Themed Days
- Girl Tips
Schoolwide

- Fundraisers (for school & special causes)
- School Events (Lunch ‘O Mania, Dodge Ball, Dances, Assemblies)
- Transitioning to Middle School Activities
- School Beautification Projects
- Meet the Board Night
- Beyond the Walls
- Spirit Weeks
- Food and/or Clothing Drives
- Community Service Projects (by teams or by individual classes)
Student Leadership Summit

• Have students identify an issue impacting youth in society or at your school.
• Get buy in from clubs at the school. If too large, ask each club to send a team of students to the summit.
• Planning: Each club should have at least one person on the planning team.
• Funding Sources: Consider your school’s Partners In Education, local businesses around the school, send letter home to parents explaining summit.
• Host at your school. Initially, start small.
• Think of it like a mini-conference for students.
Leadership Training Resources

- Success for Teens
- Growing Leaders Resources
- GRIP Leadership
- Bullying Prevention Project Toolkit
- Self-Evaluation for Youth Leaders
- 101 Ways to Recognize...
Service Oriented Ideas

- Community Service: Middle & High School Kids
- Service Learning
- Animals, Seniors, Environment, Troops, Helping Other Kids
- 35+ Service Projects for Kids
- 366 Community Service Ideas

- Consider the needs of your community.
# OCTOBER WEBINARS

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<th>All Levels</th>
<th>Elementary</th>
<th>Middle</th>
<th>High</th>
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<td><strong>7</strong></td>
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<td>Best Practices for Themed Days/Weeks/Months</td>
<td>ASCAs Mindsets and Behaviors for Your Core Curriculum Lessons (for new school counselors)</td>
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<td>Spicing Up Your College Counseling Initiatives</td>
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