

# **student leadership**

## The **S**tudent **L**eadership **T**raining **P**rogram

# *Connections*

**Alumni & Staff Newsletter**

**July / August, 2004**

### **2004's Summer Conferences**



It has been quite a summer so far. The three weeks beginning with the

Officer Training Seminar and including Session 1's LTC and TLC, and Session 2's LTC & ALC have all been filled with SLTP's magic. There has been well over 100 attendees and every bit of learning and fun than we could cram into the schedule.

Highlights have included: the unconditional acceptance; the friendships; the crazyCowboys; the Trust Walk; the Trust run; a Blindfolded meal; blindfolded elevator rides; Trust runs; the Wall Fall; Vaudeville; Face to Face; Really Rally; Candlelighting; Chips Ahoy; the Breakaways; the crayon boxes; the video for kids; Achievement Night; the slide shows and the final closing ceremony ... It was quite a trip to "Destination: Now."

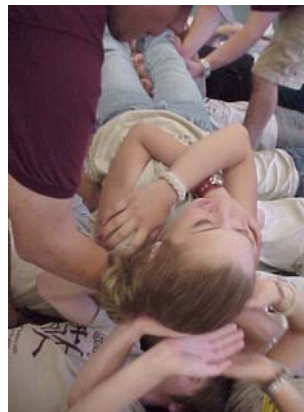


### **Your Conference CD**

Check out the CD you received when you turned in your key. On it you will find:

- ALL Crew Photos
- Staff Photo
- Earliest Bird Applications for 2005 SLTP (these include an incredible break on next year's tuition)
- The ReEnergizer Application

- A Staff Application
- The Student Leader of the Year Forms
- The Personal Development and Public Service Forms and guidelines



### **Positive Risk Taking**

Reasonable risk taking is part of life. The reasonable risks present in the games and activities of the SLTP that could result in emotional upset

or physical harm are minimized by operating according to plan. That means knowing what the possible outcomes are of whatever challenge or adventure you are presenting. We do not remove the perceived "risk". It's a valuable teaching tool. We present our activities according to plan, utilizing proven safety procedures allowing predictable results.

Initiative problems, non-competitive games, stunts, trust activities, adventure games and challenge activities comprise the make up of SLTP's training activities. All are purposeful. The benefits of activities that can bring people together are many.



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The need for such team building vehicles is perceived by an ever increasing number of high schools and businesses.

The activities we utilize offer an effective, engaging way to bring people together to build trust and to break down the artificial barriers between individuals and groups of individuals. We do not practice or present any of the so-called "high risk" activities. We do not offer a "ropes course." Nor will we. It would be contrary to our mission and purpose.

Our curriculum of camp activities is sequential - - each activity dependent on and building on the activity previous to it. As formal curricula these activities have been evaluated as having improved self-



concept, and improved the ability of group members to cooperate to work well together.

One of the primary objectives of these activities is to help participants deal with the process of risk and the effects of change. Risk is normal in the daily lives of student leaders and essential for growth. Risk avoidance or staying in a "comfort zone" impedes individual self concept, as well as group growth. Risk increases motivation,

eliminates boredom, inspires creativity, and allows a group to achieve.

There is little doubt as to the value or to the effect of this kind of activity.

Campers and staff tend to fear it at first and then find it very gratifying.

The Positive Risk Taking activities of SLTP extend far beyond the "trust activities." All of the Breakaways and most of the Crew Activities also involve PRT. Participants clearly enjoy the challenging, meaningful activities that we present. This enjoyment is equally related to both the challenge and to the meaning.

The meaning of the activities is present ONLY when the staff does their job which includes debriefing the experience and connecting the lesson to the participants personal experience.



### **2004 Peter J. Baltren Awards**



One of the chief responsibilities leaders share is the recognition of effort and achievement. The primary means the SLTP staff has to carry out that responsibility is through the Peter J Baltren Awards which are presented each week to the outstanding contributors to the success of the LTC.

In the past two sessions this summer there were more deserving candidates than ever, and the staff talked into the wee hours of Saturday morning grappling with the choices. The

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resounding applause to each name each and every week enabled the staff to feel very good about their selections.

The 2004 Baltren Awards went to: week 1 – Caitlin Hawthorne; Taylor Corey; Bridget McDonough and Eliza Stopa Week 2 Kim Martel; Jen Merigold; Kayla Briggs and Amanda Sprague

Since last year's establishment of The Leadership Center, SLTP opened up the means to recognize the effort and achievements of ALCers. So the Touchstone Awards were created to honor the contributors to the success of each ALC. The 2004 Inspiration Award winners were:

Week 2 – Laura Murphy, Lauren Zaremba and Kayla Charest.

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### **2004 ReEnergizer Conference**



On the Conference Photo CD there are copies of the REE Registration Form. The

REE is scheduled for **Saturday, November 27** at Nichols College and is sure to be the loudest, funnest and learningest conference to be held in New England this fall.

Last year we totally rocked Dudley with over 600 attendees. We invented a new level of enthusiasm.

In addition to the amazing workshops designed specifically for high

school student leaders, the REE program includes special workshops for collegians, advisers, administrators, and parents.

**Register early.** Bring lots of friends. Bring lots of enthusiasm. Bring ideas to share and questions to be answered.

Among the many activities and workshops planned for the conference there will be a “how to” session for those interested in submitting portfolios for the Service and Development Medals.

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### **Sessional Photo CD's & Videos**

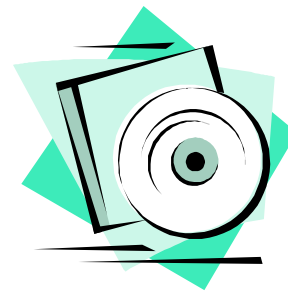
In your manual and on the Conference CD you will find an order form for the Camp Video and Photo CD

– the Camp video contains all of the laughter and excitement of Vaudeville and all of the warmth and spirit of Achievement

Night. The Photo CD includes both of the slide shows featured in the Closing Ceremonies as well as all of the photos taken by the staff throughout the week – from Dorm Squad through closing circle. This summer the staff has taken over 3,000 pictures already!!!

Place your order today.

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## Staff Application

If you are interested in applying to become a member of SLTP's staff. The deadline is approaching fast!

You will need a recommendation from either an SLTP staffer or from an adviser or coach. Don't procrastinate about asking – they are busy people.

You'll find a copy of the application and recommendation forms on your Conference CD.

Applications must include a recent photo.

Good Luck!

## Earliest Bird Applications

If you already know you want to return to SLTP next summer. Take advantage of the "earliest bird" applications which are on your Conference CD.

The deposit to hold the space in only 105 dollars and the tuition reduction is intended as a benefit for your attendance this summer. You may extend the earliest bird offer to your close friends and members of your family.

## Stop, look and listen



Connections, the SLTP theatrical troupe have agreed to take "Stop, look and listen" on the road again this fall. So far the play has been booked for 2 freshman orientations and one faculty assembly.

Presenting the play should be powerful and should enhance any school's awareness of bullying. Greg, Jim, Adam and Danielle have also developed a packet of materials for the host schools which include suggested activities and discussions to help implement the message.

If your school would like to arrange for a Connections presentation please contact Jim via email --

[sltpinfo@aol.com](mailto:sltpinfo@aol.com)

## Remaining SLTP Summer Conferences

### Session 3

LTC ~ July 27-31

ALC ~ July 28-31

### Session 4

LTC ~ August 3-7

ALC ~ August 4-7

**See you at the REE !**