

student leadership

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

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Alumni & Staff Newsletter

October/November, 2004

From where I sit



“Just” is a very damaging word, isn’t it? Often it is used in sympathy but in reality, it is quite a put down.

*“It’s **just** a phase.”*

*“It’s **just** something you have to live through.”*

*“**Just** take it easy.”*

*“**Just** try harder.”*

As leaders we realize the real power and limitations of words. Words can hurt. Words can heal. Words can unite. Words can separate. We need look no further than the presidential debates to see all four of the above.

One word we use a lot in SLTP is “Inclusion.” Simply, we feel it is the primary function of student leadership.

Every school everywhere has a mission statement that alludes or infers that the school is inclusive. Yet, that is rarely the case.

Student based leadership is the only way to overcome the systematic division.

Involved students do better academically. Involved students have better attendance. The more involved students are in the school community, the safer the school is. Those facts are clear.

What is also clear is that most schools have less than 30% of their

student body involved in student activities.

Active, aggressive student leaders are key to including and involving the student body.

At the ReE, we plan to explore the dynamics of inclusion as well as building an atmosphere within each organization to motivate its membership to become active.

Dr. Jim Fitzgerald

Founder and Director

SLTP

PS: If you received this free newsletter directly from us, you are already on our subscriber list. If a friend forwarded it to you, you can easily subscribe by sending your email address to subscribe@sltp.info

To unsubscribe, just send an email to unsubscribe@sltp.info

Mix it Up Day November 16



Last fall, more than 200,000 students accepted the challenge to begin bridging social boundaries in their schools. On Mix It Up at Lunch Day 2003, they stepped out of their comfort zones and sat somewhere new, with someone new. 27 of SLTP’s member

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schools participated in this event. A few were unable to schedule their participation on the same day as the National effort, but were able to schedule and stage a “Mix it up” event at their school.

On November 16, Mix It Up at Lunch Day 2004, students like you are going to stir things up in their school cafeterias – again.

Will you accept the challenge?

For suggestions as to how to Mix it up visit:
<http://www.sltp.info/lessons/HowtoMixitUp.pdf>

The ReEnergizer Conference



It’s now just over a month away! The ReEnergizer Conference is such a special event. We hope you will be among the entire SLTP family, together with all of their friends coming together at Nichols College.

Last year, the ReE hosted over 600 participants from nine different states and over 90 schools. There were even two students from Viet Nam! The conference was louder than ever, and it featured workshop tracks for advisers, parents, collegians and student leaders.

Get your registration in as soon as you can. On the Crew Photo CD there are copies of the REE Registration Form. And additional forms can be found on the ReE Home Page – <http://www.sltp.info/ree>

In case you’ve forgotten - the REE is scheduled for **Saturday November 27** at Nichols College.

The ReE comes at just the right time of the school year. First term is over and done. Traditionally the busiest term of the year for school activities is Second term and the ReE provides the necessary “booster shot” of motivation and positive energy to keep yourself and your organization on the right track.

Register early. Bring lots of friends – bring your whole student council and even the “cookie cupcake club. You should also bring lots of enthusiasm and bring ideas to share and questions to be answered.

Due to the size of the crowd – we will begin and end the program at the athletic center in the big gym. Plan to park in that parking lot. Drive to the Remillard dorm turn left and follow the noise and signs to the gym parking area.

As you know the ReE is a true learning experience. The skillshops we have planned will focus on INCLUSION and MOTIVE-ACTION – to get kids involved and to keep them involved.

Among the many other activities and planned for the conference there will be: an Activity Fair, a Student Election, a presentation of “bang, bang you’re dead” (bring your administration, advisers); Community Leader recognition and much, much more!

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The Earliest Bird Application Deadline is

October 30, 2004

On your Crew Photo CD is a very important form. It is the Earliest Bird Application to next summer's conferences. These applications offer CONSIDERABLE tuition reductions. Take advantage. Sign up for whichever conference you want – you will have until April 1 to change your mind without penalty.



CHAMPION for YOUTH AWARDS

All across New England in every community there are ardent advocates for youth whose support and advocacy is not due to any self interest. Since 1993, The Student Leadership Training Program through its staff and graduates have sought to recognize the contributions of these special community leaders. Without the support of these champions, the goals of community involvement and community service that most student activity programs set would be unattainable.

The idea behind this award program is simple. SLTP hopes to assist local student leaders in their efforts to recognize community support. Essentially this award is about catching people doing things right.

The criteria for this award must vary from school to school, as each school's circumstances are different.

However, the effective criterion must not be changed. This award is intended for community leaders who are ACTIVELY committed to making a difference for youth. SLTP suggests that : No more than ONE award be given annually to any individual. All Alumni and Staff of the Student Leadership Training Program are eligible to nominate individuals for the awards.

To be effective this program must be implemented with the full cooperation and involvement of the school administration. Involve everyone in the school that is actively involved in the community.

Publicity is vital. Remember praise is much more effective as a form of recognition when it is public.

Yet, this recognition is much more than a certificate and a press release. This recognition offers an opportunity to celebrate and enrich school support. If possible, host an assembly or reception. Provide gifts and/or flowers. Create an event.

Please allow SLTP to help you honor your community champions. To nominate a community leader, please submit: their name; a brief profile; and a brief explanation of the reasons for the nomination. Send that to Greg Moffitt: champions@sltp.info

SLTP will publish all of the award winners names and profiles on a special website and on the pages of our newsletter. There are two opportunities to celebrate your community Champions. The first will be at the ReE on November 27. Additional Champions will be feted in the spring at

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the DifferenceMaker Showcase.

The Deadline for submitting names and profiles for recognition at the ReEnergizer Conference is November 10, 2004.

Champions will receive a packet which contains their certificates, press release information and special scholarships which will be created in their name.

SLTP Student Elections



The annual Alumni Executive Board Elections will take place at the ReEnergizer Conference.

To be eligible for election the candidate must be a student in middle school, high school or in college (undergraduate only) and must be a graduate of OTS, LTC or ALC.

To place your name on the regional ballot, Alumni need to register by email.

Registrations should include:
Alumni Name—Conference attended/year (i.e., LTC2 / 2003);
School; Grade level; Town; address;
phone & email address

Election Registrations must be received by November 3.

Candidates will be contacted prior to the conference and will be expected to present a one minute speech at the ReE.

Each of the three established

regions Region 1) Massachusetts; Region 2) Rhode Island; and Region 3) Connecticut — will elect three representatives to comprise Alumni Executive Board.

Expectations for the Regional Representatives—

- 1) to stage a regional differencemaker event prior to June 1, 2005.
- 2) to develop a means of communication between and among SLTP Member schools in their region to help alumni in their region.
- 4) to represent their region to the SLTP AB
- 5) to elect the SLTP Student Executive Officers

Positive Risk Taking



There are definitely two sides to risk taking behavior. There is glaring evidence of unhealthy, unnecessary and even unlawful risk taking all around us every day. This negative risk taking affects our very quality of life: drug abuse, violence, crime, and vandalism are only some of the problems. Most young people and most adults as well view risk taking behaviors as only negative in nature. There is a lack of understanding about risk taking as a positive activity.

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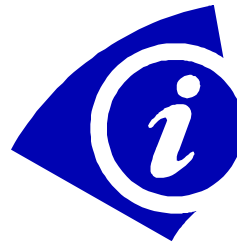
One of the most important aspects of student activities is teaching positive risk taking behavior. Positive risk taking can be defined as productive attempts to reach more of our potential in many areas: better health and fitness, fulfilling relationships, academics, activity involvement, leadership, athletics, personal and professional growth. Positive risk taking is a process that involves attempting new challenges - - socially, intellectually and / or physically. Understanding the process involves exploring the opportunities, taking the positive risks, as well as dealing with success and failure.

The majority of the opportunities offered to young people in the school setting as positive risk taking are VERY HIGH RISK - athletic teams, school plays, student council, class office, band, honor roll - generally only the best are selected and the rest experience personal failure. The real deterrent to taking positive risks and becoming more than you can be IS THE FEAR OF FAILURE. It is an invisible barrier that fences people off from challenge, adventure and natural highs. It can impede learning as well as growth. In many cases taking a risk involves opening yourself up to a highly visible failure. That failure cannot be easily blamed on anyone else. This affects self confidence, self esteem and reputation. Personal failure is scary at any age!

Student leaders must recognize how risk affects their group and utilize all of their leadership skills to help minimize risk by increasing the rewards for taking positive risks.

In LTC, each Crew examines the dimensions of risk and discusses the challenges as applied to their specific situations. While it is difficult to put ourselves in the shoes of others, seeing how even low risk activities can deter student involvement should create more aware student leaders.

Activity Fair



One of the best reasons to attend any day conference is to get new ideas. At the ReEnergizer

Conference there will be dozens of tables representing key groups and activities from all across New England. Our intent is to display the best activities, ideas, and projects so that we can all benefit.

All not-for-profit community service organizations are eligible for a free presentation table.

All member schools and alumni are encouraged to set up a presentation table. (the tables will all be judged by a special committee and camp scholarships will be awarded for the best ideas and best displays)

Please help us. Consider setting up a table to display and explain your group's best project.

Is your group interested in a space at the Fair?

If so, please tap to Adam Travis at activityfair@sltp.info

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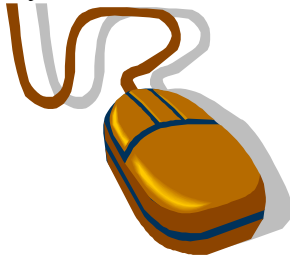
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Make a Difference with the Click of a Mouse

By Adam Travis



In June 1999, the Hunger Site began with a simple idea. Have a website where people

click a button to make a small donation to feed hungry people around the world. Sponsors pay for the donation and get to display an ad on the donation page. The idea quickly spread and soon there were dozens of sites like this, but the later decline in web advertising has led to the closure of almost all of them. Today there are three major click-to-donate sites remaining: the Hunger Site and it's affiliates, Ecology Fund, and Care2.

Visiting these sites is a great difference maker activity you can participate in yourself, with friends, or organize a group at school. If you register with the some of the sites, they will track your progress so you can see how much of a difference you are making. It only takes a few minutes each day before the effect starts to add up. For example, there are only a few people in the SLTP group at Ecology Fund, but we have already preserved 131,000 square feet of land. I encourage you to visit these sites daily and support their sponsors.

Links to the aforementioned sites and others can be found at:

<http://www.sltp.info/resources/ctd/>

Photo CD's & Videos

In your manual and on the Crew 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 took over 6,000 pictures!!!

Place your order today. The last date to order photo CD's is November 1.

Dates to remember

October 30
Earliest Bird Applications Due

November 3
SLTP Election Registration

November 16
Mix it Up Day

November 27
The ReEnergizer Conference