IMPLEMENTING TECHNOLOGY INTO YOUR COURSE

Technology is a powerful tool that can be used by NYLT courses. It can not only contribute to the effectiveness of your training, but can also serve as a distraction from your program. The goal is to encourage responsible use of technology. This can contribute many great things to your program, as long as it is managed properly.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT
Technology can be a very powerful tool during staff development. There are so many great ways to use it. From brainstorming and writing down ideas on a projector, to facilitating easy communication for your staff. Technology enables you to get work done and continue staff development and course planning when you are not together in person. If you can manage to plan for some course items away from in person development, you will be able to devote more time in person to helping your staff members with their presentations.

IN PRESENTATIONS
Technology can play a huge role in your presentations. It can be a great way to engage your participants. A well placed picture or video can make all the difference in keeping your participants engaged. If you can manage to keep the participants engaged, you increase your chances of ensuring comprehension of your message. After all, isn’t this the purpose of a presentation - to ensure that the participants understand the learning objectives? The use of different video clips, sound clips, and pictures can be used as a tool to reinforce what you are teaching. Technology can be used to emphasize your points and to ensure understanding. In my opinion, this is the most important use of technology in a presentation.

STAFF COMMUNICATION
One often neglected use of technology on course is for staff communication. Cell phones can be a powerful tool to use for communication. This requires responsibility of your staff members. Your staff members can responsibly use technology in the background while setting a good example for the participants to follow.

MISUSE
A big concern I have seen when using technology on course and during staff development is its misuse. Often times, youth will want to play games or do other things. One of the best ways to address this is for your senior youth staff to set the example. If they are seen using technology in a responsible manner and convey the message that misuse is inappropriate, other youth will learn responsibility with their electronics. If you set the standard for your youth, set the example first, and give them the responsibility, you might just be surprised how technology can improve your course.

Technology can make a huge difference in the effectiveness of your course and the communication and development of your staff. As with everything though, it requires responsibility. If the correct example is set and the staff (both youth and adult) are held to a standard of responsibility, electronics can contribute to the effectiveness of both staff development and your courses without being a distraction.

JIM ANTHONY is a guest columnist for the February edition of The Quest. Jim hails from the Pennsylvania Dutch Council and serves on the NYLT Leadership Academy staff as a Patrol Mentor.

jim.anthony@nylt-leadershipacademy.org
Many of us at the NYLT Leadership Academy have a passion for leadership development and team dynamics. We volunteer our summers to spend time with some amazing individuals - staff and participating staff alike - to further every one's knowledge on what it means to be the leader of a team. Personally, I am so passionate about this field that I have decided to pursue its studies while at college. Recently, the opportunity arose for me to conduct independent research and I immediately knew what field I wanted to look into. My current plan is to conduct formal, academic research this summer at the NYLT Leadership Academy in both Washington DC, and St Louis. The world of leadership and communication studies is very academic - did you know that everything we teach at The Academy is grounded in science? The Staph at The Academy is constantly looking to further their knowledge - so why not further it with our own endeavors?

Keep your eyes on your inboxes for further information as it becomes available as to how you can become a part of this incredible opportunity to make NYLT history, and contribute to human academic intelligence.

TIM CECE is a guest columnist for the February edition of The Quest. A student at the University of Vermont, Tim hails from the Northern New Jersey Council and serves as the NYLT Leadership Academy’s Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.
This is what leadership looks like to the participants and staff of the NYLT Leadership Academy. What does leadership look like to you?
ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF RETURNING STAFF

After someone staffs their first NYLT course, as either a Troop/Team Guide or as an Instructor, they have one very important task as staff development and preparation for the next course begin. That responsibly, that should be valued above all others as a returning staffer, is to pass on the knowledge and skills that you picked up as you yourself grew and developed throughout previous your previous experiences staffing NYLT. Seems pretty simple right? Well, there is a lot more to the process of imparting information to new staffers than one might think, its not as easy as just telling them, “this is what you do, and this is how you do it”. Just doing that won’t make what you are trying to say resonate with new staffers, and that to be a mentor to the new staffers.

To describe the role of returning staffer’s job as mentor, without going into too much depth on what exactly mentoring is, as it is such a complex topic, we will sum up meeting with this description. mentoring is a method of teaching in which the mentor provides the mentee with advice and guidance, and anything the mentee needs to be successful, while a significant degree of independence is kept. Mentoring is a difficult skill to master, but in the end, it is by far the most beneficial teaching method for both the mentor and the mentee.

Now the reason why the job of the returning staffer is to be a mentor for the new staff, is that regardless of what position you served in your previous years, you have a vast amount of knowledge that you gained through your experiences in that position, so it will be no trouble to impart that on the new staffers. If you think back to your first year on staff, do you remember how challenging it was to learn the ropes? Was there anyone who helped you through? If your answers to these questions are similar to mine, then you know how important those experienced staffers were to your success in your first year on staff, or in a new position on staff. The reason why NYLT is such a successful program is because everything that is done builds upon itself, and as new staffers come in and old staffer leave, information and skills are passed down, and each year the program gets better and better. If the cycle were to be broken, and returning staffers did not act as mentors to new staffer, then the course would go stagnant and development could not occur. Thus the role of the returning staffer is instrumental to the success of the course’s presentant and future, and no matter what position you find yourself in as a returning staffer, you job is to be a mentor, friend and leader.

John Miller, NYLT Leadership Academy Patrol Mentor & Seneca Waterways Council NYLT Course IV Senior Patrol Leader.
A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Quest Reader,

Welcome back! As always, the content creation team at The Quest has been hard at work writing pieces that we hope you find dynamic, engaging, fun, and relevant to your NYLT journey. Learning leadership is a lifelong process, and we have made it our mission to bring that mentality to this publication. Our desire is to bring you voices of leaders young and old, near and far, and those at different stages in their “quest” to become a stronger leader.

Even more importantly, we want to hear YOUR voice. Our team would love nothing more to engage with you, hear your story, and incorporate it into The Quest. Be on the lookout for contests, games, and article submission prompts. Thank you for reading, and let us lead on - together!

All the best,

Brenna Leary
Managing Editor, The Quest

COLOPHON
MARKETING DIRECTOR
Logan Echard
PUBLICATIONS
CHAIR
Dante Rodondi
NEWSLETTER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Dante Rodondi

NEWSLETTER MANAGING EDITOR
Brenna Leary
CONTENT LEADS
Patricia Hernandez, John Zanin
SOCIAL MEDIA
CHAIR
Tim Cece

MEDIA COORDINATORS
Tim Cece, John Glance, Patricia Hernandez, Devin Simmons
VIDEO MARKETING
Scott Backer
WEBMASTER
Jim Anthony
NATIONAL TASK FORCE CHAIRMAN
Gary Schroeder

Cover: Photo courtesy of San Francisco Bay Area Council NYLT. The photograph documents participants completing a station in their round robin activity.