Leadership Academy:
Connecting Councils From Across the Nation

STORMING
A DELICIOUS STAGE OF TEAM DEVELOPMENT

Photo Credit: Tom L, Narragansett Council
Throughout the ten years the NYLT Leadership Academy has been up and running, we have had the opportunity to meet people from councils located all over the United States. This year, we were able to host the Leadership Academy Course for people from almost all regions: we had the San Houston Council, all the way from Texas; the Potawatomi Council from Washington State; among other far-away councils. We also had councils from the Northeast Region, in which category the Chester County Council and the Pennsylvania Dutch Council from Pennsylvania, would fall under, along with tens of other councils from the region.

As the Leadership Academy expands deeper West into the United States, into St. Louis, Missouri, in 2015, we are looking forward to meet even more people from more councils that are not only diversified by their locations, but also by their traditions, activities, and by all the wonderful things each has to share. We would certainly like to invite the councils who have sent their staffers for the first time, or have been sending them for more than two years.

With this said, we would like to show our readers a few pictures of the patches that a few out of the many councils that come across the Leadership Academy.

The NYLT Experience

John Zanin—Content Lead

The National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) is one of the best developmental programs the Boy Scouts of America offers. This unique program gives the opportunity for youth to better their own leadership skills while learning new ones. Based on a quick inquiry done by some of the NYLT Leadership Academy team, we found that there is no other leadership course in the "professional" world that comes close to the low price of learning of the NYLT. The NYLT program has been proven to be an enjoyable experience for youth to learn from. Everyone has a slightly different experience in which makes it stand out to them as one of the greatest things they’ve done in scouting. Here are some Scouts’ explanations of their experience:

Ruth C., Longhouse Council |
During day one of NYLT I had no clue about what I was getting myself into. However, taking NYLT shaped me in ways I never thought were possible. The best thing about taking NYLT for me was that after the course was over, I was able to bring back what I had learned and actually apply it to my life. What is even better is that it applies to the world outside Scouting. NYLT gave me the confidence to step into leadership roles which I would have otherwise stayed away from. This confidence came from learning...
Leadership Academy taught me how to take information and present it in my own, totally unique way. This was all while we made connections between the information we were learning, and past and present experiences. Their process of using EDGE wasn’t boring, either, but it was engaging and lots of fun. If you get the chance, just go. You will not regret it at all.

- Taylor S., Pennsylvania Dutch Council, 2014 Week Two

Niagara Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) has permanently changed my thought process about what it means to be a leader and that’s what makes it such a great course. From New York to Seattle, our alumni have varying perspectives.

Nathan L., Chief Seattle Council | NYLT has changed my life so much since I went through when I was 13. It taught me the skills I needed to know how to be a leader that can make positive changes. Staffing [the NYLT course] let me put those skills into use, and actually know how to use them in everyday life. These skills have given me the chance to benefit not only myself but my family and whole community. NYLT has taught me to be confident and sure in my ability to take part in changing things for the better, which is a lesson that only a program like NYLT can do.

L to R: Wesley H., Liam L., Ruth C., and Benjamin H.

STORMING: A Delicious Stage of Team Development

Brenna Leary—Content Lead

In discussions concerning the Stages of Team Development, Storming is often described as a dreary stage where skills and enthusiasm are low, and the team is in severe conflict. However, is the Storming stage always negative? Here at The Quest, we would argue “no.” Storming is vital to Team Development, and is often the most productive Stage.

Consider the Margaret Heffernan quote “for good ideas and true innovation, you need human interaction, conflict, argument, [and] debate.” Human interaction, conflict, argument, and debate are all signs of the Storming stage, and without these key components, new ideas and concepts would not be generated. If Storming were a recipe, it would look like this:

1. First, pour 3 liters of Human Interaction into a mixing bowl. Human Interaction is key, because human beings can bounce ideas off each other like no other. Humans inspire each other to be better, work harder, and become more innovative.

2. Carefully mix in 4 tablespoons of Conflict. Conflict, when combined with Human Interaction, is necessary to creating new and innovative ideas. This is because Conflict forces people to consider new perspectives on ideas, and reevaluate their own perspective.

3. Sprinkle in 1 pinch of Argument. Argument may not have the best flavor on its own, but often occurs when generating new concepts. Not to worry – its flavor will be sweetened in the end!

4. Whip in 1 ¾ cups of debate. Debate is the final ingredient, because it allows people to respectfully voice their opinions about a subject, such as a vision, and come up with the best idea or solution.

5. Finally, pour into an 8 inch round pan, and let bake until the new idea, concept, vision, or other piece of innovation is golden-brown. Let cool, and enjoy in the Norming and Performing Stages!

To put it simply, Storming is vital to the creation of new ideas. Embrace Storming for the positive process that it is, and happy baking!
Want to follow Walter on his journey?

I'M ON FACEBOOK!

/whereswalterDC
The NYLT Leadership Academy has had the privilege of meeting youth who have not only learned from the Leadership Academy course, but also put their new skills to use. This month, we had the opportunity to speak with Austin G., one of our 2014 Week 1 alumni. Austin G. is from the Pennsylvania Dutch Council in Pennsylvania, and is about fifteen years old.

The Quest: What is your job at your home NYLT course?
Austin G.: This past year, I was a first year staff so I had the most contact with participants. Eventually, all I needed to do was give the patrol leader instructions and that was it.

TQ: Do you have any plans for your next course?
AG: I have a lot, actually. I want to start a system similar to the [NYLT Leadership] Academy where we present troop guides their presentations and they have to take notes. When that gets done, we will give them the [NYLT] Syllabus and have them create their presentations. I want to stress personalization, too, and show them new tools for presenting, such as games, skits, etc…

TQ: Why is NYLT important to you?
AG: Personally, NYLT broke me out of the huge shell of shyness I once had. Now I’m even more outgoing and wacky. On top of that, I have discovered a huge passion for leadership and helping those around me grow in their own personal goals. Not only does NYLT provide you with so many new skills to enhance your leadership ability, but provides you with new ideas, lasting friendships, and a network within your council to get new ideas from. It can get people out of their shell so much more than you could imagine. It can spark an immense passion you never knew you had.

“We want to hear from you!
The next issue, and the issues after that will feature articles from council NYLT courses. In order for that to happen, we want to hear what your council is doing. Send us what your council is doing, or has done, and you could be featured in our newsletter.

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