

The Phoenix

RENOVATIO YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM, INC.

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Six Renovatio 2009 newbies...



After a careful selection process, eight students were chosen to participate in the Renovatio Youth Leadership Program. Ultimately, six students from three different states gathered for the 2009 Summer Leadership retreat.

The participants met from

July 28th—August 4rd on beautiful and peaceful St. George Island in Eastpoint, Florida.

They spent ten days actively engaged in daily leadership development workshops and college planning activities. They also visited

the city of Tallahassee and toured the Old and New capitols. Florida State University opened its doors to the six students and gave them a tour of the campus. Our future leaders were challenged to meet extremely high participation standards, and they exceeded all our expectations!

Look out world for the following leaders:

- Ms. Kiarra (FL)
- Mr. Antoine (PA)
- Ms. Jami (FL)
- Ms. Daisey (PA)
- Ms. Adreenah (FL)
- Mr. Brandon (PA)

I learned soo much in so little time, and its not just stuff that I will use through the rest of high school, it's life long stuff. I'm glad that I got to meet you and all of your FANTASTIC staff!

Chelsea '08



RYLP and me!! (by Britney)

While enjoying the warm weather, the bonding of friends, and learning what it took to be a great leader I never expected that going to RYLP would help me with college. During the two weeks at RYLP we learned how to prioritize schedules, we talked to many of our leaders who were still in college so they told us what college is like for them, and we also made charts of our desired schools and the requirements to get in.

Not only did I learn how to get prepared for college on paper, RYLP helped me prepare for college life. I met and lived with diverse people from all over the country from different nationalities and backgrounds. I feel this helped me prepare for college because college itself is a diverse place.

When RYLP was over, Dr. Lois was there for me every step of the way. She helped me study for the ACT

by making me take practice tests twice a week. She helped me narrow down my choices of schools, checked over every college essay at least 10 times, and helped me realize which college was best suited for me. My RYLP friends were also there for me. We still keep in touch and talk to each other when we have questions about anything. Thanks to all the skills I learned at RYLP, the friends I made, and the undivided attention and help from Dr. Lois, I will be furthering my education in the fall of 2009 at Millersville University.

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New Students gave service project presentations

The Phoenix

Students Service Project Presentations

One of the goals of RYLP is to encourage youth leaders to assess their community and find a way to ameliorate service deficiencies. The students were required to design projects that would benefit either their school, their community, or society in general. They wrote grant proposals and planned

presentations (to three judges). Each group could receive a maximum of \$100 seed money to help them organize their fundraising activity.

The six students divided into three groups based on their interest (school, community, society), and with very little time (three days), planned detailed pro-

jects and gave excellent presentations.

Thank you to our guest judges: Dr. Lois, Sr. Jean, Mr. Ian, Ms. Alexis, and Mr. Sean.

Panama City Greets RYLP

New and returning students visited Panama City, Florida. We spent the morning at the television station learning about behind the scenes of the media and their role in shaping the information we watch and believe. We then visited the Mayor's office and

that was a true treat. The mayor took us into the city chambers and spoke to us about the role of government in a small city and his role as mayor. He said that the most important attribute of a leader was effective communication.



Mayor of Panama City Beach



Panama City television station

Snorkeling Lesson in Teamwork

Leadership doesn't only have to be all hard work. One of the activities was an 'snorkeling trip to Panama City.

Several of us did not know how to swim and for all of us it was our first time snorkeling. We had to be each other's keepers and learn to

work together to make sure we survived. We developed a buddy system and especially looked out for those who could not swim! No-one was ever in any area alone. This activity helped us when we returned to the classroom and had to work in groups. We knew that we could trust each other because we

worked Together Each Achieving More.



Students and Staff have fun while working as a snorkeling team!!



Workshops cover a variety of topics

- * Are Leaders Born or Made?
- * Finance & Leadership
- * Diverse Leadership
 - * Zumba
- * Is it Easy to Just Say No?
- * Effective Communication Skills
 - * Mayor Johnson
 - * Power in Power Point
 - * Dictionary.com

This is just a sampling of the wide variety of topics presented to the RYLPers. They approached each topic with vim and vigor. The program stressed the experiential learning philosophy and thus the majority of sessions required ACTIVE participation....even from the staff!

As the week advanced, more and more found their leadership voice

and assertively participated!

They learned to effectively ask questions, answer questions with tangible support, form an opinion based on quantitative data, and clearly present their ideas. Most importantly, they learned that **all** is within their reach!



Tallahassee greets RYLP



The Flag outside the Old Capitol

When we went on our field trip, we had fun while learning about leadership. We learned that Florida has two capitol buildings (new and historic). We did a simulated chamber session in the old building. The whole tour was very informational and we liked that it was interactive and kept us engaged and interested.

We then toured FSU and got to feel what a college campus was like. We all wanted to enroll right away.

The day was not over because we saw Star Trek at the Imax theater.

Of course you have to start each day right with a great meal shared with friends and I-Hop is just the place.



Final Ceremony

Students, Teachers, Administrators, and invited family & friends gathered for a farewell brunch.

No one wanted to say goodbye! In such a short time we had become such close friends. The week went by so quickly and now it was time for us to return to our states and neighborhoods to practice the leadership skills we had learned.

Our ceremony was held at St. Joe Golf course in the Grill. We ate brunch and were surprised with awards and certificates of completion. We had all come such a long way. Those who had been quiet were now laughing and talking with everyone. All had aspirations of going to college and becoming involved.

We thanked our instructors and wrote our last 'praise

cards' to our peers; but we knew it would not be the end. We would keep in touch because the bonds formed here were strong and could withstand the distance.



Excelling Above & Beyond!!

Invenimus Viam Aut Facimus
(We will find a way or We will make one)



RENOVATIO YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

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'09 Instructors/workshop leaders: Mr. Elmer Catlin, Ms. Anna Purkey, Dra. Lois Méndez Catlin, Mr. Ian Douglas, Mr. Grayson Shepard, Mayor Van Johnson

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HAVING THIS PROGRAM! I HAVE LEARNED SO MUCH AND HAVE SO MANY NEW MEMORIES! NOT TO MENTION A NEW VOCAB LIST. THIS HAS BEEN THE BEST EXPERIENCE OF MY LIFE.

BRITNEY '08



RYLP is a non-profit organization whose goal is to provide leadership training and mentoring for students from underrepresented groups. Our week-long retreat and year-long mentoring is possible only with your help. Our '10 annual fundraising campaign begins on May 1, 2010. Your donation will help us reach many more students. Please make your check payable to Renovatio Youth Leadership Program, Inc. and mail to P.O. Box 626, Eastpoint, Florida 32328. Help us to make summer 2010's program available to more students.

Thank you!!

We're on the web:

www.RenovatioYouthLeadershipProgram.com

Download admission & scholarship applications

Summer '10 dates July 28—August 8

Gracias, Merci, Spasiba, Thank you . . .

Nothing is successfully completed without the help of others!! I cannot thank all of you enough for volunteering

your time and helping to continually make my dream a success! Your contributions were many times unsolicited and made me realize this was also your dream. So a big heartfelt thank you to:

Mrs. Bridget Catlin
Mr. Elmer Catlin
Mr. Lionel Catlin
Sr. Jeanne Drea
Ms. Anna Purkey
Ms. Denise Wheelless
Mr. Ian Douglas
Ms. Leah Samaru-Charles-Douglas

Ms. Robyn Welsh

Ms. Britney Gensemer

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

Anonymous Financial Donor

And to each of the RYLP students! You were all absolutely fantastic!!

See you in summer 2010.



Dra. Lois