



Middle School Program "Path to Leadership"

Our One Day Middle School Program "Path to Leadership"

(Open to all 6th, 7th & 8th grade students)

Seeing the need to promote health and wellness for our Middle School Students; in 2014 the Staff and Advisors of the Peer Leadership Conference designed a one-day program specifically tailored to the issues facing our younger children. Cyber-bullying, social media issues, vaping, self esteem and drug & alcohol issues are just a few of the topics presented by professional hand selected speakers. Each year over 500 Middle School students from across the state attend our program. The students leave the program with the tools necessary to make healthy choices, to choose the right path and are more prepared for their journey into high school.

Students are treated to a continental breakfast upon arrival and a healthy meal at lunch.

Registration begins at 8:30 am with the 1st speaker at 10:00 am. Students are dismissed at 2:30 pm and returned to their home schools.

CEU credits are offered for teachers attending either the Peer or Path program & "Excused Absence" letters are available for the students.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

NJ STATE ELKS ASSOCIATION
PEER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
Email: njelksconference@gmail.com
Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/njelkspeerleadership>

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NJ Elks Peer Leadership Conference
NJ Elks Path to Leadership Conference



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The New Jersey Elks "Walk Out On Drugs"

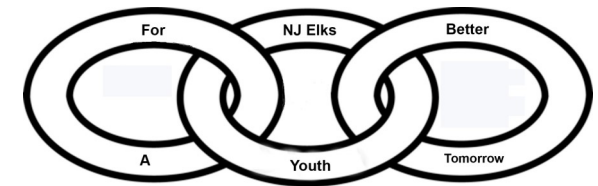
The Walk Out is our annual State wide fundraiser. All proceeds are used to offset the cost of the Conference.

We encourage all youth groups, Lodges & conference attendees to participate. Every \$1,000 raised by any individual, youth group, alliance, or Elks Lodge allows one student to attend the Peer Leadership Conference on scholarship. The funds raised keep this conference going. Donations are always welcomed.



New Jersey State Elks Annual Peer Leadership Conference & Path to Leadership Program

**ELKS AND YOUTH:
PROMOTING WELLNESS IN OUR COMMUNITIES**



**Held the First Weekend in February
at the Ocean Place Resort & Spa
Long Branch, NJ**

Peer Leadership Conference

The NJ Elks began the conference in 1983. The 1st year the conference was held, it was a half-day program with approximately 20 students attending. Over the years since 1983, our conference has grown tremendously.

Today our Peer Leadership Conference is a weekend long event open to all NJ high school students. Each year over 400 students from all parts of New Jersey attend our conference. During the conference the students attend keynote presentations and workshops throughout the day. We engage only nationally recognized motivational and educational speakers for both the Peer Leadership and Path to Leadership programs. At night the students enjoy social and “chill time” activities such as a nightly dance, karaoke, game room and other activities. The students make ties and bonds with each other that will last for years to come.

Below is a Typical Conference Schedule*

FRIDAY

7:30-9:30AM Registration & Breakfast	11:00-12:15PM Advisor Workshop
9:30-10:00AM Welcome	12:15-1:30PM Lunch
10:00-11:00AM Opening	1:45-3:00PM Student Workshops
11:15-12:15PM Keynote 1	1:45-3:00PM Advisor Workshop
12:30-1:30PM Lunch	3:00-3:15PM Break
1:30-2:45PM General Session	3:30-4:45PM General Session
2:45-3:30PM Advisor Meeting / Room Keys & Assignments	4:45-5:00PM Group Photo
2:45-3:30PM Break	5:00-5:30PM Turn In Scavenger Hunt Forms
3:30-4:45PM General Session	5:30-6:30PM Free Time
4:45-6:30PM Room Check-In	6:30-8:00PM Dinner
6:30-7:30PM Dinner	8:00-9:00PM Keynote
7:30-9:00PM Evening Entertainment	9:00-12:00AM Dance
9:00-11:30PM Dance	9:00-12:00AM “Chill Time” Activities
9:00-11:30PM “Chill Time” Activities	12:30AM Room Checks
12:00PM Room Checks	

SATURDAY

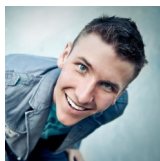
8:30-9:30AM Breakfast	8:00- 8:30AM Religious Service (Optional)
9:45-10:00AM Welcome	8:30-9:30AM Breakfast
10:00-11:00AM Keynote	9:30-10:30AM “That’s a Wrap”
11:00-12:15PM Student Workshops	10:30-11:30AM Keynote
	11:30-12:00PM Closing

* subject to change each year

Mission Statement

The objectives are to increase participant's ability to make healthy decisions for themselves and to assist their peers in doing the same. The Conference provides peer leaders with specific tools and resources to implement action plans in their communities, thus creating a network of students with the ability to educate their peer groups, schools, and communities on the skills learned at the conference. The conference provides knowledge and information that gives the student the ability to exercise good judgment. The goal is to affect positive change in each student that they in turn carry forward into their communities and into their future endeavors.

SOME PAST & PRESENT SPEAKERS



SCOTT BACKOVICH is witty by nature & caring at heart. Scott’s quirky yet powerful style and message speak to students at their own level, helping them to understand the true potential they hold. For Scott, it’s not about talking at students; it’s about connecting with them.

JULIA GARCIA, with her energy, raw spoken word, & powerful audience interaction, she creates a real experience for the students. With her diverse background, passion, and PHD research she reminds the students that they are not alone in the pressures they face & that their story and voice matters.



ALBERT MENSAH was born and lived the first 19 years of his life in Ghana (Africa). Born in a mud hut and living far from any urban center, Albert's life was hard. Albert's powerful message of hope and inspiration is based on his own life experience as he shares the practical skills and tools he used to become successful.

CRAIG JANDOLI is a dynamic speaker who has an innate ability to get young people to open up and be vulnerable. He empowers the students by letting them know they are not alone in the challenges, pressures & issues they face and that they can offer support to one another.



Student Testimonials

" The Peer Leadership Conference is an event that brings together like minded individuals from all around the state to discuss ways we can go out in the world and be ambassadors to help those who surround us. At the conference we get to meet so many people and create new bonds based on our shared love of raising awareness and normalizing common struggles. All those who attend the conference as speakers, peers, and leaders have created a safe environment which has changed my out view of life forever and allowed me to create a mindset where I can help others in a similar way." - Ryley, Grade 10

" When I attended the Peer Leadership Conference it made a huge impact on me. The night of the dance I sat alone & others invited me to play games with them. This act of kindness along with others writing me Warm & Fuzzes inspired me to continue passing on positivity. It encouraged me to make that change in someone's life." - Avery, Grade 10

"I first came to this conference as a freshman with no friends or anybody I knew. However, with the environment the Elks created I was taken in by another school & made many friends along the way. This conference is one-of-a-kind experience where I learned a lot from peers & speakers." Mel, Grade 12

"This conference was eye opening. It was a place to be vulnerable. To really be yourself and express yourself, the good and the bad. It is a place of support and a place to grow. It has most certainly changed my life and the relationships I have." - John, Grade 12

