

I AM A LEADER

Youth Frontiers Retreat Volunteers/ High School Leadership Opportunity

Youth Frontiers is a nonprofit organization that partners with schools to create more positive school communities through daylong, interactive retreats on the values of kindness, courage and respect. A retreat is a high-energy day that creates a “catalyst for change” by challenging students to think critically about the impact of their everyday choices and how they treat themselves and others.

An important component of the retreat day is the opportunity for participants to work in groups with volunteer small-group leaders. These mentors facilitate small-group discussions, encourage participation, act as positive role models and often help break down social barriers at the school. Schools often use older high school students, parents, corporate volunteers or respected community members to mentor their students. If you recruit older students to serve as mentors, these retreats provide an excellent leadership opportunity.

GOOD FOR LEADERS. GOOD FOR YOUR SCHOOL.

Builds leadership skills

If you have a student leadership group, a YF retreat provides a great opportunity for the group to put leadership into action. If you do not have a built-in program, a retreat is a great opportunity for you to recognize the leaders in your school by offering this leadership challenge, and at no cost to you.

Provides service opportunity

You may have a service requirement for graduation, and each leader can receive a certificate with the hours he or she served after completing the retreat experience. You may find this certificate on our website: www.youthfrontiers.org.

Creates a ripple effect

Leaders often say that the day has an impact on them as well, challenging their character and everyday decisions. These leaders bring a renewed commitment back into their high school or community social circles.

Builds community

These leaders are the role models your students see on the fields, on the stages and during the events in your community. A Youth Frontiers retreat impacts more than one school, creates a powerful community connection and provides an opportunity for leaders to use their social “power” in a positive, community-building way.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SMALL-GROUP LEADERS:

1. Arrive 45 minutes before the start of the retreat for the leader orientation, and stay for the entire retreat.
2. Lead small groups. This is the biggest responsibility of the day. Leaders need to be able to communicate well, keep conversations going and help students listen and share respectfully.
3. Help control the crowd. During the large group activities and talks, leaders need to spread out and sit with the students, not with each other.
4. Bring a bag lunch, unless the host school is able to provide a lunch.
5. Participate, have fun and encourage the students to participate and have fun. Comfortable clothing is recommended.
6. Spread the values of kindness, courage and respect among their peers back at school, at work, in their families and out in the community.