



March 24, 2009

Youth Frontiers
6009 Excelsior Boulevard
Minneapolis, MN 55416

RE: Youth Frontier's Courage and Respect Retreat

Dear members of Youth Frontiers:

Thank you for providing your time, your brilliant, fun, and energetic staff, and your professionalism for our Youth Frontiers Retreats. We are completely in awe of how genuine the leaders are and the quality of the delivery in which the strong message of Courage and Respect was given. We want to share the success we feel we had with all the people involved in helping us pull off these monstrous events. Eighth grade and Ninth grade students from both Southland and Austin were impacted dramatically due to the ambiance of the setting and the demeanor in which you taught it in. Your ability to run such a smooth process for all the students completely engulfed their attention and enthusiasm. Over the four days of retreats we were able to promote Courage and Respect to over 800 students. This year we even "double dipped" by bringing in student leaders from the high school instead of the community. We believe the Retreats impact them just as much as the target audience.

Both of us have spoken to many of our colleagues and students about the impact Youth Frontiers brought to the retreats. We sincerely appreciate everything you did! We have had several positive feedback from the students and the student leaders. In fact one student said, "It was the best day of my life!"

Thank You,

Thor Bergland
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Austin High School
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Ellis Middle School
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If you have any suggestions or comments that would help us in years to come we are open to hearing them. By the way.....have you finished your donut yet?



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June 12, 2007

New Frontier is a program for 50 at-risk students at Millard South High School in Omaha, Nebraska. The focus of the program is two-fold: we want the students to succeed academically and socially. Given those goals, we teach social skills every day.

In the spring of 2006, New Frontier had the opportunity to experience Youth Frontier's Respect Retreat. It was a wonderful day for the students as well as for the teachers. The students participated in many small-group activities that focused on building trust and respect. They were fun activities; initially, our students didn't always make the connection between what they were doing and why they were doing it. However, later, when they processed with the leaders in small discussion groups, it all became clear. It was interesting for us teachers to observe – and that is all the teachers did. Youth Frontiers' leaders did it all.

The final activity of the day was the most impressive. It was called the "Campfire." The lights were dimmed and a candle was lit. The students were invited to share their insights and feelings. They were encouraged to focus on positive qualities of others and to apologize if they could think of times they had been less than respectful toward someone in the group. We teachers could hardly believe what these kids shared – beautiful, sincere expressions of thankfulness, apologies, and positive statements!! By the end of the campfire activity, many of us had tears in our eyes.

As a teacher and an administrator, we appreciated the organization of the day. The Youth Frontiers staff really knows what they are doing. It was easy to communicate with the group to prepare for the day and all Youth Frontiers staff members were very professional. It was a wonderful day, and a day that the students talked about for the rest of the year.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherri Andersen".

Sherri Andersen
Department Chair, New Frontier
Millard South High School, Omaha, NE

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heidi Weaver".

Heidi Weaver
Assistant Principal
Millard South High School, Omaha, NE



WESTONKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 277

MOUND WESTONKA HIGH SCHOOL

5905 SUNNYFIELD ROAD EAST • MOUND, MINNESOTA 55364 • PHONE 612-491-8100

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Dear Youth Frontiers,

Moving from middle school to high school can be a scary experience, but an orientation program at Mound Westonka High School, involving Youth Frontiers, helps to ease that transition and build a sense of community in the building. Westonka has used the respect retreat by Youth Frontiers for the last 7 years. Students attend a daylong retreat that addresses such issues as respect, honesty, peer pressure and conflict resolution.

Some of the most important things students learn through the retreat are that they are part of a true community at the high school and that their actions always have an effect on another human. Students learn how great it is to have someone available to listen, to care, and to help each other.

We want to thank Youth Frontiers for their part in our successful orientation program at Mound Westonka High School. Our staff, students, and parents appreciate the positive impact and dedication of your staff.

MWHS 8th Grade Team

Eighth Grade Team

Gene Zuehl
Principal



On the Shores of Beautiful Lake Minnetonka