



# **Peer Leaders - Leadership**

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# Outline

- ▶ **Goals of the Training**
- ▶ **What is a peer leader?**
- ▶ **Process of Peer Leaders – Recruitment**
- ▶ **Peer Leader Selection**
- ▶ **Briefing**
- ▶ **How to keep in touch with students during the summer**
- ▶ **Implementation**
- ▶ **Train the trainer**

# Goals of the Program

- ▶ Provide students with opportunities to develop and practice leadership and social action skills in order to become catalysts for change
- ▶ To provide a forum where young people feel safe to learn about and discuss important issues.
- ▶ To provide students with opportunities to develop awareness and understanding of community issues, problems, and resources.

# Goals of the Program

- ▶ To use positive peer influence to promote a healthy, supportive, and respectful educational environment.
- ▶ To develop social responsibility in youth with opportunities to provide community service and model pro-social behavior.
- ▶ To increase young people's self-esteem, as well as critical thinking and problem-solving abilities through opportunities for real-life application in the school and community.

# What is a Peer leader?

- ▶ The role of a Peer Leader is to guide students and help them learn skills to plan for the future.
- ▶ A peer is someone who is on equal standing with you. As a peer leader, you will learn new skills and help other people like yourself learn new skills, too.
- ▶ What is “learning a skill?”
- ▶ Learning a skill means getting training so you can accomplish something that you want to do.

# Process of Peer Leaders Recruitment

## **Direct recruitment:**

During the school year students participate in a variety of activities, such as:

- ▶ Presentations: Class 7 – driver License, Canadian bylaws, Brain Gym, Personal Safety.
- ▶ Field trips: Library, Museum, Nutrition, how to shop healthy /economic.
- ▶ Library activities: Robots, Calligraphy program, Share your Story With Canada.
- ▶ Canada Public Holidays: Family day, Canada Day, Thanks giving, Christmas Celebrations
- ▶ Programs such as: Youth to Success, after school programs, etc.
- ▶ Clubs: Typing, Conversation Classes, Soccer, Running, Gardening
- ▶ Workshops: Resume writing, Online applications, Interview Skills, Zumba classes

# Another Ways of Recruitment

- ▶ Teacher's referral
- ▶ Community agencies
- ▶ Other Settlement Practitioners

As a result:

- ▶ Settlement Practitioners are able to develop relationship with the students and are able to discover their skills, behaviors and potentials in order to recruit peer leaders
- ▶ We generally like to have a group of 10 students



# Peer Leader Selection

## Important attributes

- ▶ Excellent interpersonal skills:  
Interactive, communicative, supportive, positive, responsive, respectful of others
- ▶ Ability to adapt
- ▶ Responsible
- ▶ Experience with School & good knowledge of materials (school subject)

# Interviews

- ▶ Starting April and May SP's hold meetings at the school in order to inform students of the upcoming Peer Leaders training during the summer time.
- ▶ SP's communicate with the teachers to get further information regarding marks, conduct and attendance in order to ensure that the potential students are suitable for the program.
- ▶ During the months of May and June we hold interviews.

# The interviews contains

- ▶ Name,
- ▶ age,
- ▶ Address and telephone,
- ▶ Grade – Includes grades: 10, 11, 12
- ▶ country/Countries of Origin – Including popular countries based on recent arrivals: Syria, Somalia, Congo,
- ▶ Status – Permanent residents,
- ▶ years in Canada – Minimum one year
- ▶ Languages Spoken:

# Questions ask

- ▶ Why are they interested in joining the peer leadership team?
- ▶ Identifying some ways of how would they help a newcomer student?
- ▶ Provision of a reference ?

# Briefing

- ▶ A brief morning orientation is done in late July or early August as part of maintaining in touch with the students. It contains:
- ▶ Introductions
- ▶ Ice breaker
- ▶ New Moves DVD
- ▶ Discussion –Understanding cultural differences
- ▶ Outline of the program (3 days)
- ▶ Understanding the principles of Peer Leaders
- ▶ Details of locations/Transportation

# keep in touch with students during the summer

- ▶ SP's maintain communication with students through WhatsApp, e-mail, texting, telephone and other media .....
- ▶ Invite the students to summer camps or family events with community agencies

# Implementation

Once the recruitment process is complete, we schedule the 3 day period in the schools. We also require twenty SP's and staff members to begin the process.

- ▶ Time frame: 3 days
- ▶ Curriculum

# By the End of Day 1

## Students Should be Able to:

- ▶ Become familiar with the site and the goals of the training
- ▶ Develop the awareness that all belong to different groups, with varying characteristics
- ▶ Know the importance of being non-judgmental when interacting with people from other cultures
- ▶ Understand the boundaries for peer leadership and learning
- ▶ Learn how to communicate with others



# By the End of Day 2 Students Should be Able to...

- ▶ Recall and reflect on their own individual experiences when they first arrived in Canada
- ▶ Identify key issues that were of concern to them when they were first adjusting to their new school environment and practice strategies for success that they can share with peers
- ▶ Become familiar with the school environment

# By the End of Day 3 Students Should be Able to...

- ▶ Become familiar with various school routines and staff members
- ▶ Learn how to work with a combination lock
- ▶ Describe various extra-curricular activities within the school

# Expectations Of Peer Leaders

## DO'S

- ▶ Things Done
- ▶ Attend regular class
- ▶ Help with concepts
- ▶ Contact with School
- ▶ Create exercises
- ▶ Feedback to School?
- ▶ Student knowledge
- ▶ Know who work for

## DON'TS

- ▶ Things Not Done
- ▶ Not solve assignments
- ▶ No grading
- ▶ No academic recommendations
- ▶ No teaching?
- ▶ No lecturing
- ▶ No personal snitching
- ▶ Reporting cheating?

# Train the trainer!

Have group involved in...

- ▶ Group Warm Up Icebreaker
- ▶ Creating a self-profile
- ▶ Understanding cultural differences
- ▶ How people communicate (page 22)
- ▶ Case Scenario ABCD (choose one)
- ▶ New Moves DVD
- ▶ Show certificate that students receive at the end of the training

# Schools – Collaboration with Teachers

We work with the teacher who is in charge of the Work Experience Program, and students receive 4 credits for completing the program throughout the year.

We maintain communication with the teacher to ensure the student is actively participating for the whole year. Teachers also observe the students in action.

# Requirements

- ▶ Student has to be actively participating with the Peer Leader program through EISA
- ▶ Needs to complete 75 hours work experience within one year
- ▶ SP's keep record of the hours
- ▶ Peer Leaders obtain one credit for the completion of a Safety Training Certificate
- ▶ Students receive an evaluation at the end of the program

# Peer Leaders Activities During the Year ...

- ▶ Parents computer classes
- ▶ Assist with interpretations during the school year for the Newcomers
- ▶ Assist with new students orientation during the year
- ▶ Participate in organizing after school activities
- ▶ Assist with after school programs (Sports, language, field trips)

# Questions





