



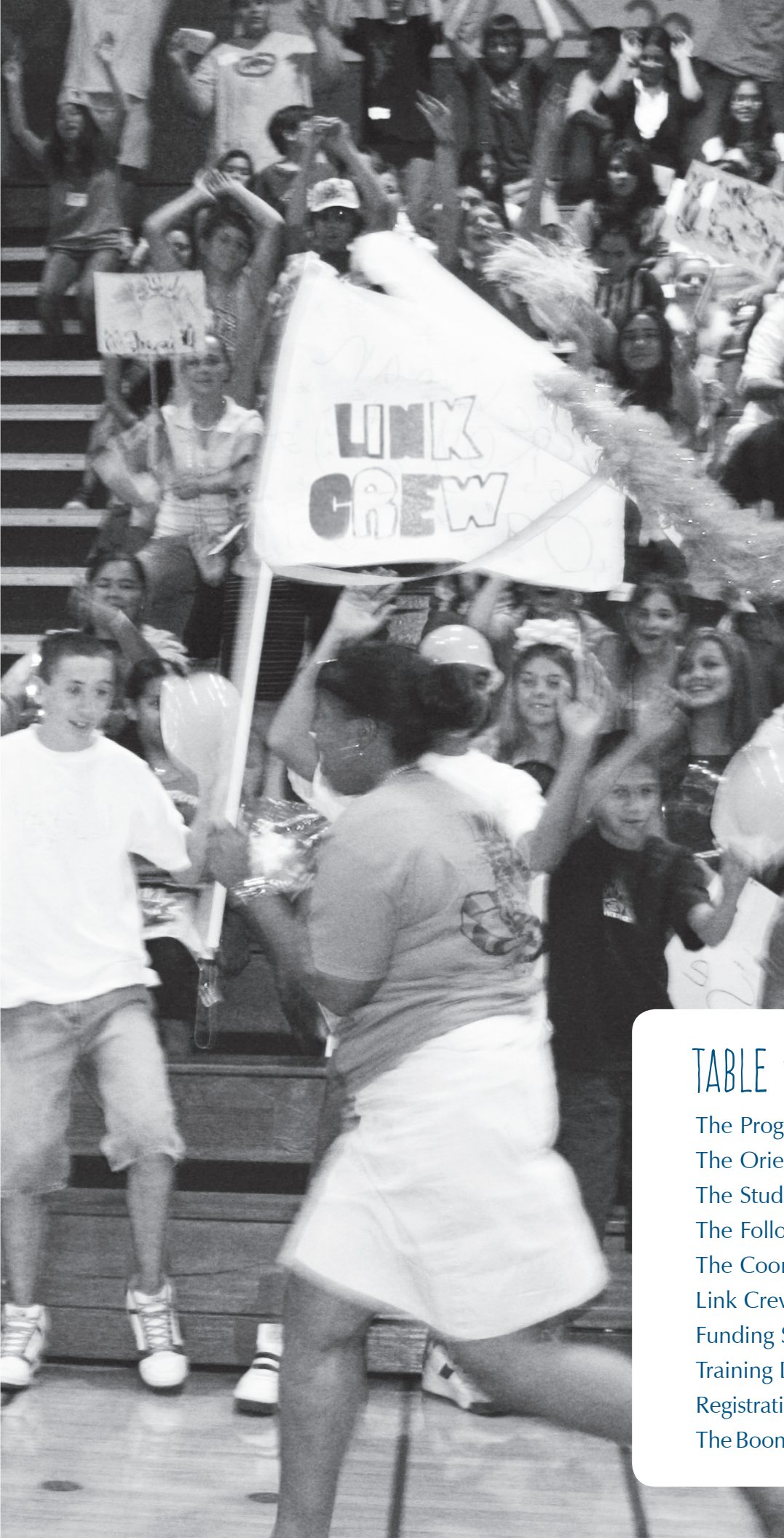
Link Crew

A HIGH SCHOOL ORIENTATION AND TRANSITION PROGRAM



FRESHMAN SUCCESS STARTS HERE





THIS PROGRAM WORKS!
It helps freshmen transition, but just as important it gives great kids with all different types of backgrounds an opportunity to be real leaders at school.

Marcos Bolanos
Teacher
El Segundo High School
El Segundo, California

Link Crew has already made a tremendous impact on the Mingus campus. Teachers have shared that freshmen seem calmer and more confident. Parents have commented on how wonderful it is to have an upperclassmen connected for their students.

Gretchen Wesbrock
Guidance Counselor
Mingus Union High School
Cottonwood, Arizona

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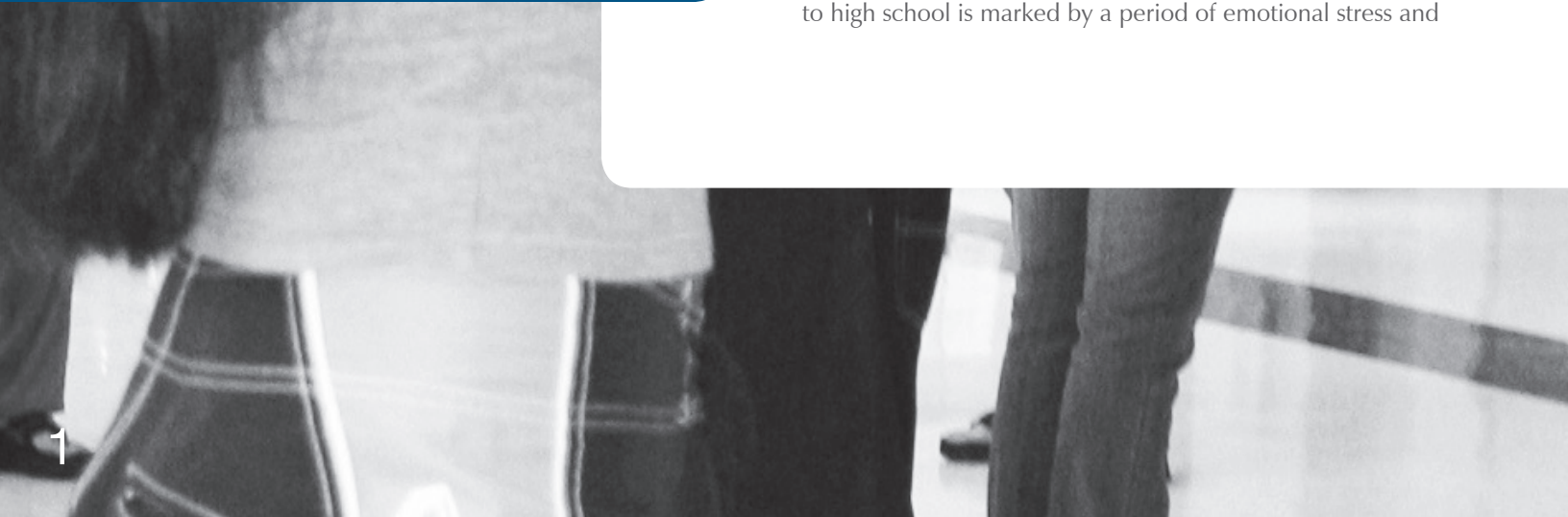
The Program

What would happen at your school if students were given permission to care about each other and the structure in which to do it?

LINK CREW IS NOT A ONE-TIME EVENT, IT'S A YEAR LONG TRANSITION PROGRAM.

The Link Crew program provides a structure that guides freshmen toward both academic and social success. Link Crew helps create a safe and supportive school environment where freshmen learn that people at school care about them and their future. Link Crew removes the culture of negativity, hazing and bullying toward freshmen and replaces it with structural support and purposeful connections that make a measurable difference in their success and at your school.

The transition to high school can be a major event in the life of a young person, and yet very few strategies for support exist in most high schools. Numerous studies show that the move to high school is marked by a period of emotional stress and





discomfort for adolescents, often times resulting in a decrease in academic achievement and an increasingly difficult social adjustment. It is this combination of factors that can be the impetus to high risk and self-destructive behavior for freshmen. Link Crew eases this challenging transition by offering freshmen a solid foundation to begin their high school experience.

With Link Crew, students help students succeed by using members of the junior and senior class as Link Crew Leaders. These Leaders are extensively trained to be positive role models, motivators and teachers who guide the freshmen to discover what it takes to be successful in high school.

The Link Crew program is a year long orientation and transition program that helps gear up your freshmen for high school success and creates positive whole school culture and climate change.



Link Crew is amazing!
A Link Leader spoke to the staff about how excited she was for this year and how ready she was to make a big culture change. So amazing to hear it from the students. I've never seen the staff so excited.

Maureen Miller
Teacher
Poca High School
Poca, West Virginia

In school you keep on running and running and when you get tired you can give up just like that. But if you have a person there telling you to keep going, you are going to keep running until you've achieved what you thought you couldn't. This is what this Link Crew is about. We are linked together to become something greater than we thought we could be.

Vincent
Link Crew Leader
John Marshall High School
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

I think I'd be lost without
this program.

Rebecca
Freshman
Lewis-Palmer High School
Monument, Colorado



The Orientation

FRESHMEN FEEL COMFORTABLE FROM DAY ONE

A year with Link Crew begins with a spirited and interactive freshman orientation at the start of the school year. After the general assembly, the Link Leaders lead their crew of ten freshmen through a series of fun, positive activities designed to help them all get to know each other, as well as learn important school information.

These activities also spark discussion and thoughts regarding the upcoming responsibilities, choices and challenges in high school.

The goal of the orientation day is to welcome the freshmen to their new school and encourage them to think about the path they will take during the next four years.

Additionally, the orientation day establishes the relationship between the Link Leaders

IT FELT LIKE 95% FUN AND 5% BUSINESS. SO MUCH FUN.

—Freshman, Bellarmine High School, San Jose, California

and the freshmen so that the freshmen know who the Link Crew Leaders are, what their purpose is and what they can expect in the way of support throughout the year.

As a teacher I know transitioning students is vital. But this year, I experienced the Lancer Link program as a parent. This program, the people who run it, and the students involved had such a profound impact on my son, I would be remiss not to pass on my compliments and thanks. He walked a little straighter and held his head a little higher when the Lancer Link Leaders acknowledged him, spoke to him or simply asked how he was faring. He is proud to be a Lancer but more importantly, he feels like one, he feels a part of something larger! Thank you, from a grateful mom.

Nancy Foster,
Teacher and Parent
Ursuline College Chatham
Chatham, Ontario



I just wanted to send a big
THANK YOU to all of the
administrators and staff
involved in Link Crew for
everything you've done
and everything you're doing
with the Link Crew. You are
truly creating leaders who
will change the world.

Letter from former Link Leader
Souderton High School
Souderton, Pennsylvania

The Student Leaders



LINK CREW LEADERS ARE THE HEARTBEAT OF YOUR ORIENTATION PROGRAM.

Link Crew Leaders are a cross-section of the student body representing all types of students, thus giving as many freshmen as possible a Link Leader to identify with. Through identification to and connection with a Link Leader, freshmen ultimately start to see themselves as leaders too. Link Crew Leaders receive extensive training that develops their skills and provides them with a vision of what it is to be a high school leader. In preparation for the orientation, the Leaders receive two days of training in how to lead a group of freshmen in activities that will welcome them to their

new school. Throughout the rest of the year, Leaders continue to get trained in communication, organization and leadership skills so they can maintain their positive impact on freshmen as well as other students around school. Link Crew provides an opportunity for students from numerous social groups to have a common goal and purpose, thus diminishing antagonism that might exist between these groups. Because Link Leaders are positive, natural leaders from a broad social cross-section, student leadership is shared by a variety of groups and the school climate reflects that.

Link Crew

is more than an orientation program.

At North Farmington we found that 71% of failing freshmen ended up with a passing grade after Link Alerts were sent out and the Leaders intervened. We couldn't have done this without all we learned at the Follow Up Conference.

Kevin Ozar
Teacher
North Farmington High School
Farmington, Michigan



The Follow Ups

LINK CREW TRAINING AND ACTIVITIES CONTINUE THROUGH THE YEAR

SOCIAL

Social Follow Ups provide a social setting for Link Leaders and their freshmen to reconnect and build relationships outside the classroom. Several times during the year Link Leaders and freshmen attend organized social events that may include going to sporting events, eating lunch together or attending a movie night.

ACADEMIC

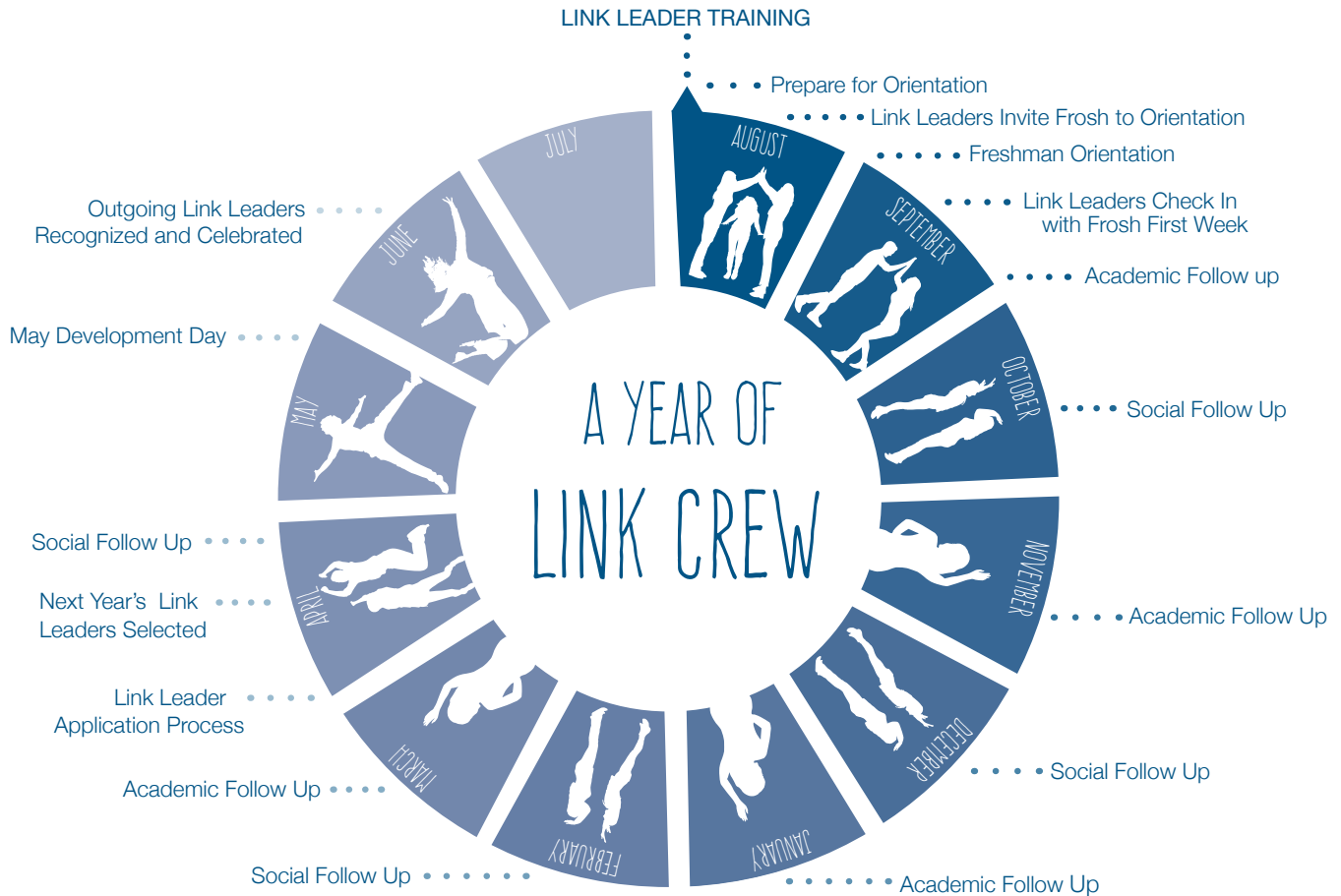
With Academic Follow Ups, Link Leaders visit freshman classes several times throughout the year teaching structured lessons on topics such as *Using Your Available Resources*, *Managing Your Time*, and *Achieving Excellence*. The power

of the Academic Follow Ups is that younger students learn from older students who have had a variety of experiences, successes and challenges. These lessons are designed to give freshmen the skills needed to be successful during their high school years and beyond.

LEADER INITIATED

Beyond the structured activities provided for Link Leaders and their freshmen to connect, Link Leaders are also encouraged to make individual contact and avidly support their freshmen through Leader Initiated Follow Ups. This helps to develop the personal relationship that will allow Leaders to be a support throughout the year.

Link Crew is a year-long transition program that has the power to change the culture of your school.



••••• ➔ **37%**
 Decrease in referrals
 Applied Survey Research*, 2011

It's been great! The atmosphere when the freshmen and Link Leaders had their first Follow Up lunch together seemed like they've all adjusted already!

Mae Punzalan
 Teacher
 Shanghai American School, Pudong Campus
 Shanghai, China

*an independent, third-party research firm



The Coordinators

Link Crew, for me, has been one of the most exciting and challenging programs I have been a part of in 30 years of teaching. The chance to create change in a school with a program like Link Crew has truly been one of the highlights of my teaching career.

Rob Laderoute
Physical Education Department
Brookfield High School
Ottawa, Ontario

The general premise of Link Crew is for social support of freshmen, but the training goes far beyond freshmen. The positivity, philosophy and engagement are so powerful, I hope to use what I learned to be a better educator, parent and human being!

Elizabeth Hanson
Teacher
Cody High School
Cody, Wyoming

LINK CREW COORDINATOR TRAINING

The staff members chosen to lead the Link Crew program will attend an intense three day training session in the spring. This training prepares the coordinators to implement all the phases of the Link Crew orientation day. The coordinators learn the general assembly for the freshman class, the small group curriculum that the Link Leaders will lead, how to train the Link Leaders, as well as the organization and logistics of orientation day. Additionally, the coordinators receive a handbook detailing the year long calendar that makes Link Crew so successful.

SUCCESS NEEDS TEAMWORK

The most effective Link Crew programs are run by a team of coordinators working together rather than a single coordinator working in isolation. Choosing the right team to run the Link Crew program is the most important decision to be made when first bringing Link Crew to your school; it is the key factor in determining the program's success at your school. The people chosen to run the program should be dynamic, excited about kids and education, detail oriented, able to effectively multi-task and also should be motivators of both students and other staff members.

CONTINUED TRAINING & SUPPORT

After the initial three day conference, there are twice yearly trainings that provide opportunities for coordinators to network and receive additional skill development. These trainings keep coordinators up to date with the latest program changes and improvements. This ensures the quality of the program improves over time, and keeps the coordinators motivated and connected with other Link Crew schools.

94%

of all attendees rate the Link Crew Basic Training as the best professional development they've ever experienced.

WHEN TO GET TRAINED

There are many details that need to be addressed before the end of the school year thus, the later in the year you attend the training, the more difficult it is to complete those tasks effectively and with the level of detail required to implement a great program. It is highly advisable to get trained as early in the year as you can, so that your team is set up for the most success possible.

SELF SUSTAINING

Our goal is to help your school create a freshman support program that is completely self sufficient and self sustaining. As long as there are Link Crew Certified personnel who have been trained at the 3 Day Basic Training coordinating the program at your school, your school can continue to run Link Crew with no additional service costs, fees or royalties.





Funding Sources



HOW TO GATHER THE FUNDS TO BRING LINK CREW TO YOUR SCHOOL

Here’s a list of ideas and resources to help you. Remember, the key to success is perseverance!

FINDING GOVERNMENT FUNDS

Many schools have found success using federal and state grants/monies to start and support their Link Crew programs. We encourage you to research and look for funding opportunities using these funds:

- GEAR UP – Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs
- SIG – School Improvement Grants
- SLC – Smaller Learning Community Grants
- Title I
- TUPE - Tobacco Use Prevention Education

While Link Crew’s primary focus is to successfully transition freshmen, it also acts as an enhancement and support to other schoolwide programs at your school. Ask about money that your school and/or district has dedicated to support the development of (but not limited to) the following:

- PBIS – Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
- RTI – Response to Intervention
- Character Education
- Anti-Bullying
- AVID – Advancement Via Individual Determination
- Safe Schools, Healthy Students (sponsor: SAMHSA)
- SEL – Social and Emotional Learning

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

There are often funds available for use in these two categories that can help bring Link Crew to your school.

Accreditation Process: Schools involved in the accreditation process find themselves needing to ameliorate deficiencies at their school that Link Crew can address including (but not

limited to) purpose, governance, leadership, school climate, student learning and student connectedness.

Staff Development: The Link Crew Basic Training is designed to prepare staff members to implement and execute the program with excellence, but it also improves participants’ overall educational leadership and instructional skills. 94% of all participants rank the Link Crew Basic Training as the best professional development experience they have ever had.

OTHER OPTIONS FOR FUNDING

Private Donations: It is not unusual for private companies or community organizations such as Rotary Club to support the local high school by paying for teachers to attend Link Crew training. We know of several schools that have successfully approached large and small local companies and asked them to be sponsors of the Link Crew program.

ASB/Student Council/Student Activities: Depending on your state and/or district, funds from your student government organization may be available to pay for and support Link Crew. Check with your Principal, Activities Director and/or Student Council Advisor to see if this is an option for you.

Parent Booster Organizations: Often, Link Crew is funded by parent organizations, such as PTAs, that are interested in and committed to creating a safe, welcoming and comfortable place for students. They are a great resource not to be overlooked.

Your Local Community Foundation: Many communities have foundations that pool money from donors in order to create grants that support the efforts of local organizations to improve the community. Contact yours!

For more funding strategies and ideas, go to
www.boomerangproject.com/resources

When & Where

Washington February 1*- 3
Semiahmoo Resort, Blaine, WA

North Carolina February 8*- 10
Grandover Resort, Greensboro, NC

Colorado February 8*- 10
Cheyenne Mt. Resort, Colorado Springs, CO

Southern California February 22*- 24
Temecula Creek Inn, Temecula, CA

Michigan February 29*- March 2
The Inn at St. John's, Plymouth, MI

Northern California March 14*- 16
Seascape Beach Resort, Aptos, CA

Minnesota April 4*- 6
Oak Ridge Hotel & Conference Center, Chaska, MN

Connecticut April 4*- 6
Heritage Hotel, Southbury, CT

Illinois April 18*- 20
Eaglewood Resort, Itasca, IL

Ontario April 18*- 20
Blue Mountain Resort, Collingwood, ON, Canada

Southern California May 2*- 4
Temecula Creek Inn, Temecula, CA

Southern California May 9*- 11
Temecula Creek Inn, Temecula, CA



Before you submit your registration form to your district office, please fax it to 831.471.9616 or email a copy to registrations@boomerangproject.com. **This way The Boomerang Project is assured to receive it in a timely manner.**

Register Today!

Online: boomerangproject.com/courses
click on the orange "Register Now" button

By Phone: 800.688.7578

By Fax: 831.471.9616
photocopy and fill out registration form

By Mail: fill out registration form and mail to:
post office box 600
santa cruz, california 95061



*The conference begins on the date indicated; we ask participants to arrive and check into the hotel the Sunday evening before this date for a brief meeting. This night's lodging, as well as dinner that evening, are included in the entire cost of the conference.

Cancellation Policies

1. **All cancellations must be received in writing and confirmed by The Boomerang Project to be considered valid.** Lack of payment of the amount in full or the deposit prior to the start date of the conference IS NOT considered a cancellation.
2. A written cancellation must be received 16 days PRIOR to the start date of the conference for all charges to be refunded and/or cancelled in full. **If a cancellation is received WITHIN the 16 day period before the conference start date, the deposit becomes non-refundable and will be kept by The Boomerang Project.**
3. If a written cancellation is not received and/or the participant does not show up to the conference, **The Boomerang Project reserves the right to charge the full amount of the conference cost.**

Certification & Credit Hours

In addition to certifying you as an official Link Crew Coordinator, The Boomerang Project offers both college credits through Brandman University and professional development hours. **The certification and credit hours will only be given to a participant if all sessions of the conference are attended by the participant.**

We appreciate you taking the time to read through our policies!

What you get

- 3 full days of training
- 3 nights of lodging and all meals
- Training manual
- DVD and CD training materials
- Database access and support
- On-going phone and online support
- Additional Follow Up training day in the fall
- Follow Up Handbook and DVD with 10 lessons

Registration Form

(all prices valid until July 1st, 2016; all currency in US dollars)



Early Bird Special Price

Valid only with paid deposit on or BEFORE January 27th, 2016, no exceptions

Double Room Early Bird Price: \$2195.00 per person

(participant can request a roommate or will be assigned one of the same gender)

Single Room Early Bird Price: \$2495.00 per person

(participant will have his/her own room)

Standard Price

After January 27th, 2016

Double Room Standard Price: \$2495.00 per person

(participant can request a roommate or will be assigned one of the same gender)

Single Room Standard Price: \$2795.00 per person

(participant will have his/her own room)

To register for a Boomerang Project conference we require either the amount in full or a deposit of \$1000.00 per person. A credit card, purchase order, or check are all acceptable forms of payment. Remaining balances are due by the start date of the conference. Late payments may result in a 10% finance charge.

I have read & agree to The Boomerang Project's Cancellation Policies on the previous page (this box must be checked to process registration).

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Check #: _____ Enclosed and made payable to: **The Boomerang Project**

Purchase Order #: _____ Attached Faxed with Registration

Paying by credit card? Call 800.688.7578 or email us at registrations@boomerangproject.com and we'll send you a link to pay securely online!

Deadline to register for each training is the Wednesday prior to training start date.

Please note: rooming changes made within 16 days prior to the conference are not guaranteed and any costs may not be refundable.

Choose your training for 2016:

- Washington February 1*- 3 :: Blaine, WA
- North Carolina February 8*- 10 :: Greensboro, NC
- Colorado February 8*- 10 :: Colorado Springs, CO
- S. California February 22*- 24 :: Temecula, CA
- Michigan February 29*- March 2 :: Plymouth, MI
- N. California March 14*- 16 :: Aptos, CA
- Minnesota April 4*- 6 :: Chaska, MN
- Connecticut April 4*- 6 :: Southbury, CT
- Illinois April 18*- 20 :: Itasca, IL
- Ontario April 18*- 20 :: Collingwood, ON, Canada
- S. California May 2*- 4 :: Temecula, CA
- S. California May 9*- 11 :: Temecula, CA

*The conference begins on the date indicated; we ask participants to arrive and check into the hotel the Sunday evening before this date for a brief meeting. This night's lodging, as well as dinner that evening, are included in the entire cost of the conference.

School Information

School Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____

ZIP/Postal Code _____ School Phone _____

District Name _____

Participant Information

Name and gender are required to guarantee registration

Participant 1 _____

Administrator Counselor Teacher

Other (specify) _____

Home Phone _____ T-Shirt Size _____

F M ----- Single Room Double Room

Roommate request: _____

Email: _____

Participant 2 _____

Administrator Counselor Teacher

Other (specify) _____

Home Phone: _____ T-Shirt Size: _____

F M ----- Single Room Double Room

Roommate request: _____

Email: _____

Participant 3 _____

Administrator Counselor Teacher

Other (specify) _____

Home Phone: _____ T-Shirt Size: _____

F M ----- Single Room Double Room

Roommate request: _____

Email: _____

Participant 4 _____

Administrator Counselor Teacher

Other (specify) _____

Home Phone: _____ T-Shirt Size: _____

F M ----- Single Room Double Room

Roommate request: _____

Email: _____

If you're registering more than 4 participants please call us at 800.688.7578 or register online.



The Boomerang Project

The Boomerang Project is like a new suit of armor. I had NO IDEA what you have been doing to change education; I am so happy I need not go another day ignorant of your mission. I thank you for your vision, your ability to make this vision happen, and your tireless effort to inspire teachers to be 'the best for the world, not in the world.'

Rachel Stanek
Teacher
Overfelt High School
San Jose, California

YOU GET BACK WHAT YOU GIVE

The Boomerang Project was founded by Mary Beth Campbell, Carolyn Hill and Micah Jacobson. Along with housing the internationally known Link Crew and WEB programs, The Boomerang Project is a company dedicated to educators and students. The company's goal is to provide as many resources and tools as possible to help create schools that not only teach students, but reach them as well.

Mary Beth and Carolyn combine more than 21 years of experience as outstanding, award-winning classroom teachers. They were among the first to be trained in Link Crew and ran groundbreaking programs at two high schools in California. For the last 17 years Mary Beth and Carolyn have been national directors and lead trainers for the Link Crew and WEB programs. As inspiring trainers, dynamic presenters and innovative curriculum developers, they have grown Link Crew and WEB into well respected and internationally recognized programs. Under their leadership, Link Crew and WEB have touched the lives of more than 3,000,000 students.

Micah Jacobson has worked with student leaders, schools, teachers, parents and administrators for more than 21 years as an exceptional keynote speaker and trainer. Micah first began working with Link Crew in 1993 as a trainer for the program; in 1996 he initiated and directed the creation of the WEB program and became its lead trainer for several years. Micah has presented to over 700,000 students and teachers in more than 1000 schools throughout the United States and Canada. He is the co-author of three educational books and is a leading thinker in the world of leadership, experiential learning and education.

The Boomerang Project
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