

Heightened Awareness Training:

The Challenges Modern Boys Need and Hunger For - Enhancing Your Program's Role In Maturing Boys Into Men

Most structured programs that are designed to positively impact boys to mature into responsible young men, fail to create lasting impact and thus lasting value. Often the content that was delivered is forgotten before the last word is spoken. At best, like listening to a good motivational speaker, they evoke a short lived enthusiasm that is more about feeling good, then actually doing lasting good.

Boys don't need to feel good. In fact, they don't need to get deeply in touch with their feelings at all. The fixation of the field of counseling and psychotherapy on this in the last 20 years has done far more harm than good in that regard. What they need is something else entirely... This session will address what this is, in great detail.

Here's the challenges:

The first thing typical adolescent boys will think when they walk in the room to participate in any program you are going to offer that is supposed to be about learning something meaningful is not, "I hope this will be fun." What they'll be thinking is, "I hope it's not boring."

For many of them, years of schooling destroys their positive expectations about learning experiences that involve discussions with adults. Years of lectures, sermons and one way "talking-to" experiences while they sit there sedentary and disengaged, conditions them to go into mental "check-out" mode where their body is present but their mind is elsewhere, and where they organize to give the answers adults are looking for rather than what they really think, if they are thinking at all.

Years of listening to adults push their own agenda on them about how they should behave, what should matter to them and why, long after they are old enough themselves to be forming their own opinions and making their own decisions, has closed many boys down to being open to hearing what adults say and to valuing with legitimate respect and deep regard the advice they are given.

Modern boys - especially during their adolescent years (11 - mid/late 20s) - have become primarily a peer oriented group, basing most of their values and behaviors on what peers and pop-culture value and do. In general they at best pay little more than the minimal necessary attention to the values that most responsible adult caregivers live by and want to teach them to embrace as well.

The orientation to “teaching values” is so accepted as the right thing to be doing with adolescents, it is ubiquitous. Most adults would not even question the validity of why they should be doing this or that they should be doing this.

That is the problem.

Teaching values is the wrong thing to be teaching adolescents if you want to capture their attention and have them strive to integrate what you are offering. Trying to push an agenda of what is the right way to be living and the right way to do things, will fail at this consistently.

Values change as we age. Values change as society evolves. Today’s young people are coming of age in a different world than the one we grew up in. They will need different values, different behaviors and different approaches to handling their challenges than just the ones we used at their age. This is extremely difficult for many adults to comprehend - especially those who are steeply entrenched in a mission that is almost entirely about values and where it seems you’ve been commissioned to compel kids to embrace certain values. For some, even the consideration of what I am offering will be offensive to the point of disgust. This doesn’t change the reality that that approach doesn’t work.

So what does?

Don’t teach values, instead teach what they’ll find valuable.



This session will offer you a handful of examples of life issues that boys consistently find to be incredibly valuable to learn about... issues that not only have value to them to help them get results in life, but that ultimately empower them to live by the values that will enable them to live substantial positive lives.

Delivering this kind of material to them takes skills. It is not so hard to do that it takes mastery, but it certainly requires more than just the best attempts of an amateur.

This session will hopefully offer you more than enough to begin taking the next step towards enhancing your camp’s role in inspiring boys to become truly great men.

To learn more about Jeff’s Professional Development Training & Consulting Services, including his unique and compelling programs he offers for teens, contact him as soon as possible.

www.LEIKEN.com

Jeff@Leiken.com

415.441.8218

www.CampLeadership.net • www.BoysToMensch.com