



Dear Parents,

You are receiving this letter because your daughter or son has expressed interest in attending **Lead On! For Peace and Equality in Alaska**. Lead On! is a leadership conference for youth and adult community-partners who are interested in developing the skills and tools essential to initiating positive change in their communities. The mini-summit places an emphasis on developing the leadership skills necessary to promote healthy relationships, non-violence, and equality. The 2010 Lead On! conference will be held in Anchorage, October 9th through 11th.

In the two years since Lead On! began, Over 200 youth and adults from all over the state have benefited from their experiences at the min-summit. Participants attend three days of workshops led by a variety of inspiring youth and adult presenters, both from Alaska and around the country. Speakers such as Gene Tagaban, Destiny Arts, Alaska Teen Media Institute, filmmaker Ellen Frankentien, Respect Rx- Courtney Macavinta, Teens Acting Against Violence and Leadership Asset Youth Coalition have attended Lead On! and received rave reviews from youth and adults alike. There are also plenty of evening activities – from open mic nights to movies, from dances to creating public service announcements – designed to not only entertain but also to engage participants in the act of incorporating the skills from the workshops in to their daily lives. At the end of the three-day mini-summit, youth participants are asked to work with the adult community-partners from their region to design a community project that incorporates the goals of Lead On! with their own goals and desire to better their communities. Our hope is that participants will walk away from this conference with newfound skills and enthusiasm to create change in their home towns.

Youth who are under the age of 18 and live outside the Anchorage area will travel to Lead On! in local or regional groups of other youth and adult community partners. It is with these groups that participants will develop a community plan during the conference and who they will continue to work with once Lead On! is over. Youth participants will also be asked to sign a commitment to follow the conference code of conduct to ensure that the tenets of equality and respect are maintained.

If Lead On! sounds like something you would be interested in for your son or daughter, we encourage you to help them fill out their application. We welcome any and all enthusiastic potential applicants to apply for the third annual Lead On! youth conference.

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ANDVSA
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