

The **W**illow **T**ree **T**een **I**nstitute

What is it?

WTTI is a year-round peer leadership training program for Middle & High School students that begins with a 4 day conference each November. Through WTTI, teens become empowered to serve as alcohol, tobacco, drug and bullying PREVENTION ADVOCATES for their schools and communities.

The Conference:

The WTTI school year begins with a 4 day residential conference held at Camp Ralph Mason in Hardwick, N.J. Young people in grades six through eight register in teams or "Action Groups" of at least 5 students plus one adult from their school or community. At the WTTI Kick-Off Conference, participants attend exciting interactive workshops where they learn how to (1) be effective prevention advocates,

(2) create natural highs through laughter and play, (3) resolve conflicts and how to build communities of peace, (4) creatively teach others about the effects of alcohol and tobacco, and most importantly, (5) they learn how significant the choices they make really are. Meeting with their Action Groups every day, participants learn how to develop a Prevention focused Action Plan for implementation during the school year.

Follow-up Services:

WTTI provides support services throughout the year to help sustain the energy created at the Kick-Off Conference and to help the students to spread this energy to a larger group of peer leaders. This is accomplished in four ways.

1st, WTTI maintains ongoing contact through monthly networking meetings for Advisors, regular phone & e-mail conversations, a "members only" chat room, written reports & on-site visits with each Action Group & Advisor.

2nd, WTTI holds a reunion six months after the conference to renew friendships, check to see what skills and information have been retained, and to strengthen our support system for alcohol, tobacco, & drug-free choices plus peace building & prevention activities.

3rd, WTTI produces a 16 page newsletter at least twice per year highlighting prevention activities, providing re-sources and information, publishing teen, advisor and parent contributions, announcing drug-free programs & events, &



Specifically, they acquire the skills needed to analyze problems, brainstorm solutions, prioritize strategies and take the steps to implement a prevention program. Each Action Group leaves WTTI with an Action Plan that is ready to go!

Next ... Follow Up

generally keeping our "High on Life" spirits alive.

4th, WTTI offers an intensive training program in leadership skill development for participant schools called the Teen Leadership Initiative or the TLI. Open to both WTTI & non-WTTI participants, the TLI provides a wonderful opportunity to expand Willow Tree or Peer Leadership Clubs.

Please Join Us —
We'd love to have you!
www.willowtree.org
973-682-TREE (8733)

