

**HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER PROGRAM**  
**EDGE OF LEADERSHIP**





### **From the EOL Team**

With over 35 years of leadership development experience, we've compiled our best thoughts and ideas into a collective vision of leadership development for young people called, Edge of Leadership (EOL). We believe that there is an ability to lead in each of us, and that unlocking that potential makes good things happen. Everyday, we see our approach changing perspectives and opening doors to new collaborations between youth and adults to be their best.

For our EOL students, we know that the most crucial tools we can provide youth are the skills to think critically and creatively, to problem solve, and work as a team. EOL is the best place and one like no other, where students become leaders, find their voice, and work hard in the face of adversity while turning vision into reality.

EOL isn't for everyone. It's an investment in yourself and in your community that requires patience, courage, and commitment.

Are you ready to join us? Call or email us and we'll get you started down the path to EOL!

Sincerely,

**Nancy Heydinger**, Edge of Leadership Director

Phone: (802) 254-8718

email: [nheydinger@high5adventure.org](mailto:nheydinger@high5adventure.org)

[www.high5adventure.org](http://www.high5adventure.org)

# High School Summer Program

## The Journey Towards Leadership

Students and teachers are all asked the same question, are you ready? Ready for the adventure, the hard work, and the journey ahead? Edge of Leadership begins with a three-day leadership experience that pushes the limits of both students and teachers to discover the confidence found in hard work, collaboration, and success. EOL is designed around its three simple but powerful guiding themes for developing young leaders: Connect, Empower, Lead... be the example.

Through shared group experiences and adventures on the High 5 campus and challenge course, students and teachers will:

- Practice using sound judgment and making healthy choices.
- Realize the potential of communication, dialogue, and collaboration.
- Discover the empowering confidence to lead by example.
- Develop critical thinking and problem solving skills.
- Learn skills for making a positive difference in their school communities.

The EOL experience opens doors to new collaborations between students, teachers and administrators that help make schools and communities work to their highest potential. During EOL Summer Program, Student-Teacher teams will dialogue, set goals and plan for the upcoming year. The new skills and perspectives learned will create new energy to help set a framework around the issues that they choose to take on. Each school and community has their own culture and their own issues, so we can't tell you how to find success, but we'll give you the skills and tools to discover it within you. Throughout the school year, High 5 stays connected to each team, helping to facilitate and guide the leadership path that each team has chosen.

*“The confidence I gained as an EOL student significantly impacted me in all aspects of my life...”*

Sophie, Student

**EDGE OF LEADERSHIP**



**CONNECT**

# High School Summer Program

## The Summer Program Experience

EOL takes place in a camp-like setting over three days. Most activities take place outside in beautiful wooded surroundings and on High 5's Challenge Course. Participants sleep in cabins and eat family-style meals.

### Each day focuses on one theme:

- Day One begins with the introduction of our first theme; **CONNECT**. Developing interpersonal skills that foster healthy relationships is a central, and foundational theme of the EOL model that's highlighted throughout the program. Through practice, students and teachers will increase their awareness of the social and emotional skills necessary for successfully building and maintaining relationships that allow them to shape ideas, find solutions, and work collaboratively toward success.
- On Day Two, participants will be introduced to the second theme; **EMPOWER**. In the EOL program, participants often describe the feeling of empowerment as finding their voice in the community; ultimately describing the moment they became a leader. In the EOL model, empowerment begins the moment an idea is validated, a voice is heard, or an example is set. Through hard work and adventure on the High 5 Challenge Course, students and teachers will come to learn that the power of leadership is accessible to anyone and with it, comes the development of skills and knowledge that will allow them to overcome obstacles, solve problems, and achieve goals.
- **LEAD... BE THE EXAMPLE!** On Day Three, Students and teachers will begin to take what they've learned and explore ways of applying their new skill to real life opportunities for action in the community and learn how to organize and facilitate student lead initiatives that will make a difference back in their own school and community.

*"I learned that being a leader is not about being loud and talkative: lead by example, show what you know."*

Tim, Student

**EDGE OF LEADERSHIP**



**EMPOWER**

forming  
s Connection  
mer Theater 2012  
everyone gets to be in the limo

# High School Summer Program

## What's Next: After the Summer Program

Student-teacher teams begin their year with the new tools to make changes in their school and community. The team creates action plans to implement the ideas they identified. Our EOL teachers are available for consult to help see the plans put into place. Some of the plans that our EOLers have implemented:

- The Keene High School team identified a need to develop and strengthen student-teacher relationships. The team designed a day-long adventure for students and their invited teachers at High 5, which included a challenge course experience for the entire group, and subsequent dialogue which opened new channels of communication and cooperation between the teachers and their students.
- Essex Tech students planned and facilitated a professional development day for teachers and faculty. The students conducted a circuit of teambuilding activities and facilitated dialogue among breakout groups of teachers.
- Manchester Youth Service Bureau students worked with multiple agencies in the area to coordinate the installation of water bottle filling stations at all sports fields.
- The Lincoln Sudbury High School team designed and implemented a professional development program where teachers shadowed one student for an entire day of school. "Very eye opening," said one teacher. "I thought I had an understanding of what our students experience daily - I was way off."

*"Edge of Leadership has profoundly changed my life for the better in more ways than I ever could have imagined"*

Julia, Student



**LEAD**

# High School Summer Program

## Applying to Attend EOL Summer Program

Edge of Leadership is open to schools and community organizations who work with high school youth. Inquiries and applications should be submitted by a member of the school or organization wishing to attend. Each student applies to attend by submitting a short application and an essay. The application process begins by contacting us at High 5 Adventure to learn more about the EOL program.

Scholarships are available for up to 50% of the tuition cost per student. We work hard everyday to make EOL more accessible to all. Through generous donations and proceeds from the sale of Ubuntu Cards, we are able to award thousands of dollars in scholarships each year. If you are interested in learning more about available EOL scholarships, please contact us at High 5 Adventure.

## Mission and Philosophy

In the true spirit of adventure, we believe that leaders, given the right encouragement, tools, and opportunity for personal growth are a powerful resource for bringing innovation and positive influence to schools, local communities, and to the lives of others. Based on over three decades of leadership programming, High 5 Adventure's leadership development approach helps youth and adults connect and communicate in new and positive ways towards improving school and community culture.

*"Students discovered the critical nature relationships play in making positive changes to any situation. They expanded their understanding of the power of trust and encouragement; Awesome! to witness such critical self-discovery"*

Tyler Webb, Teacher

**EDGE OF LEADERSHIP**



**BE THE EXAMPLE**

### **For students, EOL is...**

- Exciting, fun, and challenging.
- An opportunity to make new friends from across the Northeast.
- An adventure that will create a lasting memory.
- A chance to develop leadership skills, discover their voice, and make a difference.

### **For teachers, EOL is...**

- An opportunity to build lasting connections with students.
- The chance to experience working with students in a whole new way/setting.
- An effective way to develop your ability for working with today's youth.
- A professional development opportunity.
- A way to make a difference in the lives of others.

### **For Parents, EOL is an opportunity for your student to...**

- Build the skills necessary for success in the 21st Century.
- Discover their potential to lead others in the face of adversity.
- Experience a new way of learning and living with confidence.
- Be their best now, and in the future.

### **For Schools and Organizations, EOL is...**

- An opportunity to grow student leaders who may not take the traditional paths to leadership.
- A way to give students additional opportunity to grow through discovering their own abilities and their own voices.
- An effective way to improve school culture and community.

If you and others at your school are ready to make a difference, we'd love to talk with you about how Edge of Leadership School can address your school's unique culture and issues.



130 Austine Drive ■ Brattleboro, VT 05301  
802-254-8718 ■ 877-356-4445  
[nheydinger@high5adventure.org](mailto:nheydinger@high5adventure.org)



## Edge of Leadership

We come together  
Shy, not sure what  
To make of each other

Slowly we learn  
About each other  
How to work together

We present our skills  
Blend them together  
To solve a problem

We get stronger  
Overcoming obstacles  
Harder then the last

Soon we become a force  
Unstoppable, unbeatable  
Conquering everything

We are the  
Edge of Leadership

*-Cecily Doyle*

