

# Facing Forward



A B O U T F A C E

## Do You Want To Be A Leader?

...continued from front page



Are you 19-24 years old? Well, we have the perfect opportunity for you! This year we will be hosting our 5<sup>th</sup> Life Skills and Leadership Retreat held at the University of Guelph in Guelph, ON. In this setting, participants are responsible for planning and preparing meals, organizing and facilitating programming, and working together to complete tasks and challenges. In 2014, each youth created a goal to complete during the retreat. Some of the goals created were: being confident when speaking to a stranger; planning and cooking a meal; speaking up in group discussions; and leading an activity. It was an amazing experience to see everyone put the effort into accomplishing their goal as well as sharing their pride when they completed it. One of the highlights was having a participant led sharing circle in which everyone was able to engage at a deeper level, challenging themselves and each other in a safe, supportive environment. We also explored daily challenges such as speaking in public, job interviews and application, education, and working in groups. \*Camp Trailblazer Alumni interested in volunteering at future camps are expected to attend the Life Skills and Leadership Retreat to build and develop leadership skills.

Here is what people have shared with us about their time at the Life Skills and Leadership Retreat:

"I enjoyed the Leadership Retreat because it was great to get to know people outside of Camp Trailblazers as well as challenge myself to practice leadership in different areas. Another thing I found valuable was learning about the experiences of others who have gone through post-secondary education and into jobs with their facial difference."

"It is a great opportunity to be a part of an older social community after camp where we can continue learning about ourselves, as well as other unique people growing up with us. Plus, I went home with some epic new friends!"

"The Life Skills and Leadership Retreat is a place where I can build my leadership skills and build an incredible bond with the people. We worked well as a team. My favourite part was when we all cooked together and when we did the Amazing Race. We always came up with crazy recipes and had the most amazing adventures! I have been a returning member since the very first retreat four years ago and I keep coming back because the friendships are life-long. I can't see my life without these great people."

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In the last few years we have seen participants of the program go on to do great things after attending the retreat. Some accomplishments are:

- Apply and be accepted to various post-secondary and post graduate programs
- Participate in a national pageant, which included fundraising and media interviews
- Take on personal projects in the facial difference community
- Act as skilled and engaging volunteers at Camp Trailblazers
- Present on behalf of AboutFace at conferences
- Take on leadership roles in local community
- Maintain employment



Are you ready to join us for a week of personal growth and lots of fun?  
[CLICK HERE](#) for more details on the program or to sign up now!