



What It Takes to Plan a WILS Seminar

There are many things that need to happen to plan and make a successful seminar. You need commitment and dedication from your planning committee as well as great organization. The planning for the seminar starts in September. This month is the Planning Committee Kick-Off. At this meeting we review the timeline and roles & responsibilities; we assign volunteers to planning committee positions such as, Director of Programs, Transportation, Volunteer Tours, and Facilitators. Finally we review the surveys from the last seminar to brainstorm new ideas for the next seminar.

October is the month for student recruitment. We send emails and packets to Wisconsin High Schools asking them to nominate. November is our busiest month for student recruitment. Volunteers call schools to remind them to nominate. During this month, the planning committee also finalizes topics to establish the program agenda. The next time the planning committee meets is in January. Student recruitment is still very important and now the planning committee starts to contact speakers and panelists.

Over the next few months the planning committee and those with planning committee roles become very busy. The Director of Volunteer Tours must find places for the students to do volunteer work

as well as contacting restaurants for lunches for the volunteer tours; Director of Facilitators sends an email out to past volunteers asking them to become Facilitators, also the Vice President of the Alumni Association sends an e-mail out to the WILSAA to ask for Junior Staff. Director of Transportation will assist setting up transportation for ambassadors as well as reserving the buses for the seminar. By May you should have the seminar agenda finalized, all speakers confirmed, transportation and volunteer tours confirmed, complete list of facilitators and junior staff, and the programs go to print. This is also the busiest month for registration, when the ambassadors send in their information to be entered into our system. From May to June you are finalizing last minute items, and getting yourself prepared for Thursday night Facilitator and Junior Staff Training. It takes many dedicated volunteers to put on a successful seminar but all of the hard work and devotion pays off in the end.

-Kelly Schmidt

“You need commitment and dedication from your planning committee as well as great organization.”

Come Join the Fun at the WILS Summer Reunion!

It's time to make plans for the summer so don't forget about your WILS friends! The summer reunion is just around the corner, July 29-31st, 2005. Be sure to sign up for a weekend full of WILS fun at Marquette University in Milwaukee. This year we will be touring the famous Milwaukee Horticultural Domes, attending a new court-themed show at Comedy Sportz, listening to a great speaker, volunteering throughout the city, and as always, be ready to get wet at the car wash! We will be dining at the crazy Safehouse, so bring your favorite costume/disguise for dinner at this spy-themed restaurant. You can enjoy all this and more for only \$60. This price includes lodging, activities, and all meals (except dinner at the Safehouse). Simply send in the registration form with your deposit by June 30, 2005.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Are you a vegetarian? Yes___ No___

Will you need a ride? Yes___ No___

Can you give someone a ride? Yes___ No___

Send this form with a \$30 deposit by June 30 to:

Emily Majusiak

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WILS' Words of Wisdom from the Alumni Association President

June is finally here...and so is the WILS Seminar!! Every year in the weeks leading up to seminar I can start to feel the same excitement, enthusiasm, and energy as I felt during my very first WILS experience 4 years ago! For me, the WILS seminar was an experience that I will never forget, and I hope you will be able to say the same. The seminar taught me so much about myself and how I wanted to be. The speakers, panels, and activities taught me about leadership and current issues, but my group members, Junior Staff, and Facilitator made the biggest impact. Its amazing how much you can learn from complete strangers, and how those strangers can become some of your best friends within only three days. When the weekend was over, I signed-up for the Alumni Association which was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I've been back to relive my seminar experience ever year as a junior staff member. I have gone to almost every reunion. But most importantly, I have met the most amazing group of people, and my best friends.

Hopefully you will all enjoy WILS as much as I do, and you will come back to the seminar in the years to come. If you forget to sign-up for the alumni association before you leave (maybe you're reading this months later while you're cleaning

your room), its never too late to become involved! And as for those of you who are already members of the alumni, I hope you will spend some time reflecting on your first WILS experience and how it impacted your life...maybe we'll see you at the upcoming reunion!! We are all leaders, so I'm going to leave you with a piece of advice that my 7th grade math teacher gave my class. Stand up for what you believe in, even if you're not sure you are 100% right. Everybody makes mistakes, and its better to make mistakes and learn from them than to not take any kind of action at all. So, in the words of Mr. Stoltenburg: "Be right, Be wrong. But don't be a can of corn!"

-Amy Beres



Leadership is lifting a person's vision to higher sights, the raising of a person's performance to a higher standard, the building of a personality beyond its normal limitations. - Peter F. Drucker

Shout Outs

It's that time again to make a HUGE shout out to our new and talented ambassadors of 2005! You guys deserve a huge pat on the back for demonstrating great leadership at your schools and in your communities. Never forget your talents and never cease to reach for your dreams.

Don't ask yourself what the world needs; ask yourself what makes you come alive. Then go and do that one thing, because what the world needs is people who have come alive.

-Harold Whitman

WILS Newsletter

Check Out the WILS Website!

With newsletters only filling your in boxes three times per year, WILS has decided that we want to keep everyone involved in this outstanding organization updated on everything that is going on throughout the state! Whether it be reunion information, alumni association gatherings, volunteer events, or anything else pertaining to WILS....The place to find all of the information you need is:

www.wils.us

Leadership Reflections

A few weekends ago, I attended the graduation ceremonies at my old high school, and I was struck with amazement at how far life had taken me in that one year since I too had stood proudly on that stage. By looking back at how far I had come, I was able to gauge how far I still have to go—at all of the amazing opportunities that are available, and at how much potential the future holds. Only one year past, I had spoken on the topic of footprints—I poured out my heart from the podium, thanking all of the wonderful people who had made a mark on my life, and I explained how my goal was to be able to make positive footprints in the lives of others. As freshman year of college wrapped up, the focus shifted to the footprints I hope to be able to make—at the top of the mountain!

To all new WILS Ambassadors, and new members of the WILS Alumni Association, welcome! And to the existing members of the Alumni Association, it's great to see you again, and I'm glad that I get to share with all of you my reflection on the role that leadership has played in my life. One of my favorite aspects of WILS is the opportunity to form great friendships while simultaneously increasing involvement in the community and in serving others. The leadership abilities which we as youth possess are developed and honed in organizations such as WILS—here is our opportunity to begin to make footprints of our own.

Dear Ambassadors and Alumni, I challenge you to take the initiative, get the job done, embrace changes, and live life to its fullest! As I left the comforting realm of high school

and ventured off to college, it was the leadership skills I had developed and the lasting friendships I had made which made the transition so much easier and more rewarding. As a WILS Ambassador, you stand halfway through high school, ready to join the great college search and making plans for the rest of your life. My advice is to look down the path where you think you will be able to make the most footprints, and then aim higher! The possibilities truly are endless for those with the ambition to succeed.

WILS hugs,
Beth Wolfenden



New First Year Liason Position Available

You could be the next First Year Liason on the WILS Alumni Board! The First Year Liason serves as a voting member on the Alumni Board and has varied responsibilities including encouraging first year alumni to speak to service organizations, attending quarterly meetings, and helping to keep the new alumni informed and involved in the organization. Elections for this position are held at the Summer Reunion, which is coming up July 29th-31st! If you have any questions about the position or the responsibilities please feel free to contact the alumni board by e-mailing Amy Beres

(ajberes@wisc.edu).

“Everybody makes mistakes, just try to make ones that you can live with”

-anonymous

-Submitted by Amy Beres



WILS

WONDERINGS....

WISCONSIN LEADERSHIP SEMINARS INC.

It is a great thing to do something others say can't be done. Strive for this with leadership and you will reach great heights.

-Gayle Sayers



**Where there's a WILS,
there's a way!**

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