

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Legacy Youth Institute teaches students to Champion Family**

Branson, MO – October 9, 2014 – Twenty-seven high school juniors are participating in the 2014-15 Legacy Youth Institute (LYI), a leadership and mentoring program designed to equip student leaders across Stone and Taney counties to pass on the area’s “Ozark Mountain Spirit” to future generations. Last week’s session—Championing Family—was held at Silver Dollar City.

Students heard from several Silver Dollar City Employees about how the company is committed to a family-friendly experience for both guests and employees. Aaron Newberry, Director of Silver Dollar City’s Share It Forward program, shared how this program enables employees to help other employees in times of need. This “families helping families” approach both reflects and promotes the family-friendly culture of Silver Dollar City and Ozark Mountain Country.

“I didn’t realize that there are companies that would help out their employees like this,” said Branson High School student Alexandra Farris. “It’s more of a personal relationship, not just a boss-employee relationship.”

Later in the day, Jim Brawner, President of Team Barnabas, taught students how to improve their interpersonal skills and leadership potential, starting in their families, based on their personality types. Mr. Brawner emphasized that learning to maximize their personality strengths and to minimize their personality weaknesses enables them to treat others the way they would like to be treated.

“I learned that knowing myself and paying attention to how I interact with others is important in relationships,” said Branson High School student Allison Thomas.

“I was reminded of the importance of showing genuine care for one another,” said Galena High School student Brookelyn Burk. “Reaching out and working together is the best way to champion family in our area.”

A primary goal of the LYI program is for students to realize that an area’s culture is shaped by the choices made by individuals, organizations, and businesses.

“As future leaders of the community, these students have the power to preserve and influence our family-friendly culture by the choices they make each day,” said Jory Rolf, Director of the LYI Program. “We want them to learn that the choices they make today in their relationships will have an effect on the future.”

After just two sessions, students already recognize the benefits of participating in Legacy Youth Institute.

“Growing up here, I don’t think you realize how special this area is,” said Hollister High School student Kyle Kapella. “This program has made me realize how great this area really is and what it must be like for people who have never experienced something like it.”

Each of LYI’s six sessions explores a different core value of Ozark Mountain Country—Faith, Family, Friends, Flag, and ensuring a preferred Future. The next session - Championing Flag - will be held on Wednesday, November 5 at the Veterans’ Village at the Red Roof Mall. For more information about the Legacy Youth Institute, please contact Ozark Mountain Legacy at (417) 598-1314, or visit [www.ozarkmountainlegacy.org](http://www.ozarkmountainlegacy.org).

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Ozark Mountain Legacy is our area’s non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, promoting, and championing our core values of Family, Faith, Friends, Flag, and Future to ensure the continued success of our Ozark Mountain Spirit as we Pass It On to future generations. ([www.ozarkmountainlegacy.org](http://www.ozarkmountainlegacy.org))



LYI Students – at Silver Dollar City for Champion Family Day



LYI Students receive a tour of the Candy Shoppe from SDC icon, June Ward



LYI students tour Marvel Cave at SDC



LYI Students learn about personalities and how to interact with family members from Jim Brawner



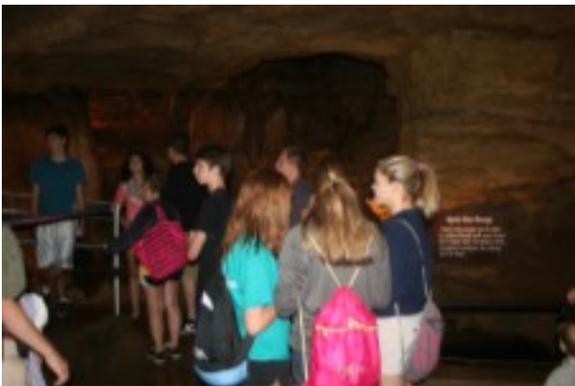
Roberta Jenkins gives a behind the scenes tour of the SDC Costume Shop



LYI Students hear from Aaron Newberry, Director of SDC's Share It Forward



LYI Students participate in Champion Friends Day at SDC



LYI students tour Marvel Cave at SDC