

creating the leaders of tomorrow

Foróige is proud to announce its partnership with The Ireland Chamber, United States, to implement and further develop the Albert Schweitzer Leadership for Life (ASLFL) Programme in Ireland and internationally. The ASLFL programme provides young people with the tools they need to develop their leadership skills and prepare them to become great leaders of the future.

The programme takes its name from one of the world's greatest humanitarians and 1952 Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Albert Schweitzer. The German born theologian, philosopher, musician and physician was passionate about the positive

development of young people, their future leadership roles and serving mankind. This programme is his legacy to young people. Bryan Gavin, Co-ordinator of the ASLFL programme in Foróige, reports.

"Search and see if there is not some place where you may invest your humanity."
Albert Schweitzer

So, what's the ASLFL programme all about?

The ASLFL programme is a leadership programme for young people aged 15 - 18 who have demonstrated good leadership abilities and aspire to being leaders in the future. It is designed to help these young people develop the attitude and skills of good leadership. The programme focuses on developing awareness, responsibility, interpersonal and communication skills. The overall aim of the programme is to enable young people to develop the skills, inspiration, vision, confidence and action

plans necessary to be an effective leader. Having taken part in the programme, young people will gain the essential skills to make a positive difference to their society through the practice of effective leadership. It will motivate young people with leadership abilities and high aspirations to:

- » Take responsibility for exercising leadership
- » Improve communication skills
- » Develop their own personal skills and ability to work in groups
- » Develop an awareness of social issues
- » Improve their problem solving abilities
- » Believe in their abilities and respond with a 'can do' attitude
- » Create self-esteem that encourages them to exercise their leadership abilities in the communities where they live
- » Set goals and strive to achieve them.



Don't Wait for Leaders, Create Them

Foróige will host the flagship ASFLF conference from 17th – 21st August 2009 in Dublin, kicking off with an opening ceremony in Trinity College. There are 250 much sought after places available on the five day programme. Young people who have participated in the programme in the U.S and U.K will also attend, which will provide a great opportunity for cross-cultural learning. Participants will hear inputs from inspirational leaders from the world of sport, politics, media and business, who will recount their own experiences as leaders and will motivate the young people involved to see themselves as leaders and instill in them a belief in their ability to succeed.

There will be a number of workshops throughout the week where participants will have the opportunity to improve their skills and gain invaluable leadership tools and knowledge that will stay with them throughout their lives. It will be an opportunity for the young people involved to come with their own life vision and set goals for what they want to achieve when they return to their communities and start out on their leadership journey. The programme places a large emphasis on the importance of 'giving back' to their communities and society. This could involve volunteering or taking a lead on a project.

The week will have a very practical focus, and it will involve the young people taking an active role in the workshops and discussions. The workshops will include some of the following:

- » **Understanding Leadership**
This will involve examining some of the key concepts of leadership. It will look at the nature of leadership in terms of what is important in a leader, the important social issues or needs in the world today and the types of leadership that will be needed in the future.
- » **Self Awareness**
This will be an opportunity for participants to look at their own strengths, interests and motivations. They will be given an opportunity to look inside themselves to see what really inspires them. It will be a chance to look at the qualities they possess already and what qualities they would like to develop in the future. It will also enable participants to examine their own values.



- » **Creating Vision.**

Each young person will be given the chance to set their own vision or goal for what they want to achieve as a leader. It will challenge them to look at what they want to change most in society and give them the ability to convert this vision in to a realistic, challenging and achievable goal.

- » **Problem Solving & Critical Thinking.**

This will give participants a chance to explore various models of problem solving and critical thinking. They will be involved in group activities and individual exercises or tasks which will give participants direct experiences of these concepts. They will also be challenged to assess their own strengths and weaknesses.

- » **Communication Skills.**

These workshops will concentrate on all aspects of communication including listening, asking opinions, hearing the needs of others, encouraging etc. There will also be a chance to practice your assertiveness, debating and presentation skills.

- » **Goal Setting.**

A key component of the whole experience is the opportunity for participants to identify goals they want to achieve. They will have a chance to analyse their goals and set out their plan for achieving them. They will focus on what skills or attributes they need to develop in themselves, how these can be developed and what support they need.

It won't be all work of course, there will be lots of time to unwind and have some fun. There will be activities and entertainment every evening, which will give all of our future leaders a chance to get to know each other and develop long lasting friendships.

Each participant will have to complete a short application form stating why they would like a place on the programme. The application will also need to be supported by a recommendation from an adult. An adult volunteer or staff person can often recognise the potential of a young person, before the young person themselves. Therefore, it is important that members are encouraged to get involved in programmes like the ASFLF. Even the best of leaders need a little encouragement every now and again!

There is no doubt that this programme will be a great benefit to the many young people already engaged in Foróige. They are already learning skills for life, and now, through their involvement in this programme, they can build on these skills and really put them to the test by becoming a better and more confident leader. It will be a truly worthwhile experience for all involved.

"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."

Albert Schweitzer

"If I believe I can do it, I will surely acquire the capacity to do it, even if I may not have it in the beginning."

Mahatma Gandhi