

## Region News Fall 2010

**Nationals-** In the past, the national conference has been held by the National Association of Student Councils. This year student delegates from all over Pennsylvania traveled together on route to the conference site in Indianapolis Indiana. The national level differs from the state experience in that students interact with leaders from all over the United States, including Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico. This is a one of a kind experience to create long lasting friendships with kids across the country. Leading up to the excitement of arrival at the destination, Pennsylvania traveled together on a pre-trip, with the sole intention of fun and bonding. This year the pre-trip included a riveting stop in West Virginia to brave the tremor of the river rapids, and a stop in Kentucky for a tour of Mammoth Cave and the local Splash Lagoon. Upon arriving at the conference, Grove City High School welcomed visitors with open arms for a week of workshops, speakers, activities, and service projects. Some of the activities included a trip to IUPUI for a tour of the campus, and a trip to the famous Indy 500 Speedway. In addition, the service project was unique, in that students were able to actively engage with children from the Neighborhood Network by touring the children around the Children's Museum. At the close, delegates reflected and said a last goodbye at a moving candle-lighting ceremony. It remains to be said that one, "leaves their heart at nationals," during this once in a lifetime experience. Next year's national conference will be adapted as the Star Leadership conference and will take place in St. Louis, Missouri. Take advantage of the opportunity to obtain friendships, ideas, training, and enthusiasm!

**Summer Workshop-** This year at the Advanced Gold Summer leadership workshop, students experienced an unforgettable summer while actively learning and enforcing leadership skills, through teamwork and bonding with everyone there. Likely all attendees would agree that while at summer workshop they found a friend in everybody. Students started off the week working together by separating into two student councils. The councils are put into place in order to plan mostly all fun events throughout the week. In this way, every summer workshop is unique and everyone contributes to the experience. Just as in a typical student council, people volunteered to serve on committees. The result was an Arabian dance banquet and dance, with an Arabian themed banquet and a rave themed dance afterwards. In addition, recreation included a movie pajama party featuring Mall Cop, a campus game of ghost and the graveyard, games of ultimate frisbee, an ice-cream social, and time to socialize and hang out with friends.

Students left with even MORE than friends. Students also came back home with advanced leadership skills. They learned about civic engagement, stereotypes, communication, parliamentary procedure, and stress management, too name a few. Each student took back a carefully crafted unique and individually made project to begin at their school. Students presented these projects in front of a group of small students and critiqued their filmed presentations together. In this way, people returned home with confidence, passion, and dedication. Active participation in all workshop and recreational activities broke barriers, skills that will help break down barriers with everyone encountered in life. At advanced gold students learn from a talented staff in addition to each other. Take the time to talk to someone who attended and see just how exciting this experience can be. Everyone who attends advanced gold will relish memories of a once and a lifetime experience.