

BOOMERANG! Character Education Program

Boomerang! Character Education Program is a 17-session youth development program, geared to youth in individualized curricula for grades 4-5, grade 6 and grades 7-8. It emphasizes character and life skill development as well as service learning through experience. Each session consists of a learning experience the youth go through that teaches them about different life skills. After the activity the individuals get a chance to share what they experienced, process the information that they learned, make generalizations about how this activity relates to their own lives, and apply it to individual use themselves. The next session would then begin with a review of what they learned from the previous session.

Boomerang! gives high school youth the opportunity to be Team Teachers and lead the groups through the activities. They will direct the youth in activities, supply them with appropriate materials, and will use the teaching manuals to guide the youth during the projects. It is great way for high school youth to practice their leadership and communication abilities by asking questions and getting the most out of the youth they are teaching.

Boomerang! has proven to help give youth a better sense of belonging, an increased motivation to help others, the skill of making decisions, the ability to communicate effectively inside and outside of groups, and improved leadership qualities not only for participants but also the teachers.