



Since 1982

Mission

Through commitment to youth empowerment and community partnerships, SLS will provide age-appropriate educational tools and support required to encourage youth to make responsible decisions regarding self-defeating behaviors particularly associated with alcohol and other drug use. SLS is committed to be the leading authority in guiding and equipping our youth with tools that encourage socially responsible behavior. SLS believes in protecting youth and that every child's life is important, youth are the future, one person can make a difference, youth can influence youth, youth can help youth, and that youth input is valuable.

Accomplishments

1. SLS 2005 Evaluation by HIGH/SCOPE Educational Research Foundation reported **SLS was "off the charts" the best youth program in Michigan out of 90 youth programs evaluated.** (Score 4.15 out of 5.)
2. Twenty-six years of coordinating Michigan high school and middle school-based student-led chapters that focus on driving safety, leadership skills, community service, peer education and healthy living.
3. Twenty-three high school three day State Conferences planned and delivered by teams of 16-22 high school students on the SLS State Student Advisory Board.
4. Awarded \$190,000.00 in Citizens Insurance and other grants to student-led safety chapters over the past ten years.
5. Nine state conferences for middle school STAND chapters, with speeches, workshops, service and networking facilitated by high school peer leaders.
6. Annually trained 500 high school students that teach 20,000 elementary students. (25-100 chapters with ten member peer educator teams) Curriculum lessons focus on refusal skills, leadership training, drug education, driving safety programs, and positive peer influence.
7. Collaborated with five Michigan high school chapters that hosted one-day state conferences, "25th SLS Anniversary" Miles Across Michigan..." project with student speeches, national speakers, workshops, community service, memorial, networking & dance.
8. Collaborated with national youth development and teen safety organizations: High/Scope Educational Research Foundation; National Safety Council; National Student Safety Program; National Teen Collaborative Conference.
9. Developed trainings, curriculum and handbooks for advisors of school-based youth-led groups.
10. Engaged and trained 200 adult alumni volunteers that assist with training, events, web site management, consulting and wherever SLS needs help.
11. Hosted four day International Teen Collaborative Conference in 2001 in Detroit for 360 students from 16 states. Focus was teen driving safety and peer leadership.
12. Planned four "Youth Leading Change" one-day events for middle and high school students, facilitated by high school students.

High school and middle school groups in Michigan, many known as "Students Leading Students", STAND, STOP, YADA, PALS or similar names, have been trained by SLS and participated in SLS conferences, rallies, camps, campaigns, trainings, grants, and have benefited from the materials provided by SLS for 26 years. SLS exceeds the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act, Safe and Drug-Free Schools Programs, Character Education, health education and safety programming and funding.