

August 1, 2008

Hello from Providence.

I hope your summer is going well and that you are getting excited for our 21<sup>st</sup> fall trip! In just a couple of weeks, we will be setting out into the Whites with a new group of BOLTers! It's just around the bend! The summer managers have been busy preparing for your arrival and helping our BOLTers with so many questions. Thanks Melissa, Aliza and David!

In preparing yourself to lead your group, please give your co-leaders a call or an email to re-connect. I also want to encourage you to spend some time thinking about the opportunities to facilitate reflection and make meaning of their experience together and in the wilderness for leadership, group dynamics, new relationships, the environment, etc. The trip is rich in possibilities if you tap them well.

Please review your Leader Manual –especially the risk management, emergency and safety protocols. It would also be wise to review your WFR/WFA materials –it'll be incredibly helpful to have the information fresh in your minds before the quick two-day review. The two-day review is way too packed to fit in a review of reading.

I want to talk briefly about the year-round program and the Steering Committee. In Steering Committee, one of our upcoming discussions will be deciding the next layer or event to add to the fall program for groups and individuals to enjoy.

It's important for individual groups to keep their connections alive throughout the year. This means having a regular and frequent schedule of gatherings as a group. To be successful in establishing a base for your group, leaders will need to extend the greatest effort and energy during the first 4-6 weeks to organize those events. Once the momentum for the group is moving forward, it will become easier for new leaders to maintain the relationships.

I encourage you to take some time during the trip to talk as a group about the year round program and to generate ideas of things you'd like to do. I would also advise you to have at least one gathering pre-planned for the week after the trip - to get things started. BOLT Wars will be held Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> from 11-1 to help you out, (plan for a group lunch after the event). There will also be a series of orientation related events that are open to the whole campus that you could choose to attend as a group: College Hill Kick-Off, a Midnight Movie and First Friday's in Faunce.

Finally, in the upcoming year, I am very interested in continuing our forward movement to lead BOLT to its next level of greatness. I am truly looking for your help and involvement in the challenge of shaping and improving BOLT for the future. Steering Committee is a group of BOLT leaders who have a **huge** impact on the program. The fall sets the year in motion to implement changes and to strengthen our program. We need your commitment, creativity, energy and involvement in Steering Committee.

Each year, as a group, we decide review our mission and goals and decide where our energies are most needed. The fall BOLTer program, training, recruitment, selection, fundraising, and our mission and goals are some of the areas we've devoted time to in recent years. It is my hope that this year we'll also look at areas where great ideas have already been brewing and waiting for the time to bust out: an expanded BOLTer fall calendar, a fall Mentor training track and Alumni outreach are three potential areas for growth. For anyone who hasn't caught on to this great opportunity, it is one that is open to you –no special initiation needed.

Our first Steering Committee meeting will be Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00-8:30 in Arnold. We are also planning a full day retreat for Saturday, September, 27<sup>th</sup> to be held down at the Haffenreffer Outing Reservation in Bristol, RI.

Please join us, please help, and please stay connected!

See you soon!

*~Shelley*