

The Learning for Life Organization offers eight programs designed to support schools and community-based organizations in their efforts to prepare youth to successfully handle the complexities of contemporary society and to enhance their self-confidence, motivation, and self-esteem. The eight programs focus on character education and career education. Learning for Life programs help youth develop social and life skills, assist in character development, and help youth formulate positive personal values. It prepares youth to make ethical decisions that will help them achieve their full potential. There are two program methods. We have seven school based programs and one worksite based program.

At a time when drugs and gangs are ravaging many of our schools and communities, Learning for Life programs can be a catalyst to help stop this trend. The program uses age-appropriate, grade-specific lesson plans to give youth skills and information that will help them cope with the complexities of today's society. Adults involved in Learning for Life are selected by the organization in which they work (i.e., schools, local businesses, community organizations, etc.). Race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic background, economic status and citizenship are not criteria for participation in Learning for Life.

Learning for Life makes academic learning fun and relevant to real-life situations in age appropriate and grade specific material. As a result, the positive character traits and skills learned by participation in Learning for Life not only make students more confident and capable, but also give them an invaluable understanding of how things work in the real world. School and community demands for character education and career education programs have greatly influenced the dramatic growth of Learning for Life. Learning for Life has been adopted by more than 17,000 schools and organizations nationwide, serving over 1.5 million youth.

Mission Statement

It is the mission of Learning for Life to enable young people to become responsible individuals by teaching positive character traits, career development, leadership, and life skills so they can make ethical choices and achieve their full potential.

Vision Statement

Learning for Life strives to be the foremost co-educational youth program for character and career development.



Elementary Program Components

The K through sixth-grade curriculum consists of three grade components with 61 lesson plans per grade that are designed to reinforce social, ethical, and academic skills. A family involvement component extends each lesson plan into the students' home environment.



Seekers (K – 2nd Grades)

Seekers offer an integrated approach to character development. Core character traits taught are: Respect, Responsibility, Trust, Caring, Courage, Citizenship, Perseverance, and Self-Discipline.



Discoverers (3rd – 4th Grades)

Discoverers combine character development, life skills, and academic learning while promoting the same core traits promoted in the Seekers Program. Lessons focus on critical thinking, conflict resolution, ethical decision-making, and interpersonal skills. A supplemental CD-ROM entitled Super Safe offers scenarios to 3rd – 4th graders in making choices about safety issues such as internet safety, bullying, and nonviolent strategies.



Challengers (5th – 6th Grades)

Designed for the cognitive and developmental levels of 5th and 6th grade students, Challengers build on previous learned themes with special focus on topics such as: Being Responsible, Making Good Decisions, Code of Ethics, and Empathy. An advance version of Super Safe accompanies the Challenger curriculum.

Upper School Program Components

The seventh through twelfth-grade curriculum consists of three school-based programs and one work-based program. Each program emphasizes the importance of post-secondary education and career awareness to better prepare our youth for a successful future. Upper School lesson plans are designed to reinforce habits of good character and life skills such as respect, responsibility, and trust. Career-related field trips and college campus tours are also offered as part of the Upper School programs to give students a real life look in to the inner workings of career environments and prepare them for undergraduate life.

Builders Program (7th – 8th Grades)

Builders offers a four-tier curriculum with elements focused around the students self and community awareness, as well as character and career development. The program involves community role models to interact with and motivate youth while sharing their personal paths to success. The program includes the CD-ROM Life Choices Game and DVD, "A Time to Tell" that addresses youth protection issues.



Navigators Program (9th – 12th Grades)

The Navigators program and Teacher's Guide aids youngsters in making a successful transition from high school into real-world endeavors, including post-secondary education, acquiring a job, being a productive citizen, and establishing and maintaining positive relationships with others. A CD-ROM career game titled Life Choices is also included. Career Speakers are also available through the local Learning for Life office offering students first-hand information on vocational options.



The Career Awareness Program (7th-12th grades)

The Career Awareness Program within Learning for Life is a program designed to expose middle and high school students in the Los Angeles area to a variety of career fields so that they will be better prepared to make career decisions. Rather than having students go in to the community without knowledge of these career opportunities, the Career Speaker Program brings the community into the classroom and supplies these students with the direction they need to make their career hopes a possible reality. The career speakers offer students with an in-depth understanding and first-hand knowledge of their career fields and what it takes to become successful in those fields. The hope is that, in turn, these presentations inspire the students to continue their education and explore these careers for themselves.



Exploring (A Work-Based Program)

Exploring is a worksite-based program designed for young adults (ages 14- to 20-years old) to get hands-on experience in a career field of their interest by working with professionals in the field. Exploring brings businesses and local organizations together by matching their employees and program resources to the interest of young people in their community. Some areas of exploring are: Law Enforcement and Fire, which are in conjunction with Los Angeles City and County Fire Departments and Los Angeles Police and Sheriff's Departments.

Champions Program (Special Needs)

Teaches youth with disabilities the life skills they need to achieve self-sufficiency. To meet the various levels of disabilities schools encounter, the program is tailored to meet the needs of individual students. The Champions Transition Program features lesson plans focusing on managing finances, vocational opportunities, planning and preparation, and seeking a job.

