

A History of NRG; A Los Alamos Youth Leadership Team, 2006-07

Prepared for the NRG Presentation to the Los Alamos County Council November 14, 2006

NRG is one of three youth leadership teams in this year's "Building Youth Leadership" program that is sponsored by the Los Alamos Juvenile Justice Advisory Board (JJAB) and Leadership Los Alamos. Twenty-five 9th-12th graders from Los Alamos High School began the program on August 14-15 at Fuller Lodge with Sean Hall from *On the Edge Productions*. The program is sponsored by the County, Schools, LANB, Lou Santoro State Farm, Kiwanis, and Los Alamos Monitor.

On August 14, students learned how to build better relationships with family and friends, participated in outdoor team challenge activities, learned how to increase their confidence, and learned relationship strategies. On August 15, students worked with community leaders, set goals for creating a better community, and learned how to create partnerships with community resources. The students also formed three teams (**NRG**, Rave, and Green Wonders), and each team chose one or two projects to work on for the school year. The projects were ones that they felt would not only make a difference for students at LAHS, but also make a difference for the community. Each team was assigned adult leaders, volunteers from the community who would oversee their activities and progress during the year. The teams scheduled luncheon meetings at LAHS every three weeks to make sure they were progressing forward with their projects. Student leaders also went to the Santa Fe Community College's Challenge Ropes Course for a full day on October 9th for additional team building and leadership activities.

NRG's main project was to have the Sullivan Field parking lot re-paved and re-striped. They did research and found out that the county owns and controls the parking lot, and the school district has full use of it at no charge. They also found out that many other groups and people use the parking lot as well. **NRG** determined that the needs for redoing Sullivan Field parking lot were strong: safety and pride in our school and community. The students then proceeded with the following steps in the process to approach the county with their request:

- They took pictures of the lot and made a draft of a Power Point presentation and later did revisions.
- They did a petition at LAHS, getting signatures of students who would like to see the lot fixed.
- The petition drive continued with **NRG** students getting signatures of students and parents at one of the home football games.
- The students and adult leaders explored the process of presenting the Power Point and our request to the County Council.
- They turned in the Citizen's Petition with the signatures of six registered voters and were put on the Agenda Doc for November 14th.
- As a member of JJAB, Councilor Mike Wismer was invited to an **NRG** meeting on October 25th and did a great job of guiding the students in their approach to the County Council with our request.
- Some students and adult leaders met with Max Baker on October 30th for additional guidance.
- Kyle Zimmerman came to the November 1st **NRG** meeting to answer more questions about the proposed project.
- Students made final preparations for their presentation to Council on November 14th.

NRG student leaders Kory Archuleta, Sean Erickson, Craig Girrens, Nat Gustafson, Ben Havemann, Grant Jancey, Elliot Marcille, Dia Obermeyer, Brenna O'Hara, Ashley Valdez, and Adult leaders, Lori Heimdahl

Gibson, John Hofmann, and Martha Waters thank Council for your consideration of our request. For more information, contact the JJAB website at: www.losalamosjjab.com.

