Improving Communication Within G.R.E.A.T.


If you did not receive this e-mail, please check your instructor’s account to ensure that your e-mail address is typed correctly. In addition, ensure that you add greatnationalprogramoffice@iir.com to your “safe sender” list and to your contacts so that e-mails sent by the National Program Office will not be seen as spam by your Internet account.

For more information about downloading the G.R.E.A.T. Instructor’s Curriculum and overhead slideshows, visit the www.great-online.org. Go to the sidebar on the right-hand side of the page, and click on the link “Instructor Resources.” After you log in to your account, click on the link “View Curricula for Download,” and follow the instructions.

Just a Reminder!!!!! Handbooks and Certificates Together!!!!

The G.R.E.A.T. Program provides handbooks free of charge to any certified G.R.E.A.T. instructor. To order, go to www.great-online.org/GREATOfficers/Login. To ensure delivery in time for your first class, submit your request at least four weeks before your classes are scheduled to begin. Please note that student graduation certificates will now be automatically included with your handbook orders. It is no longer necessary to place a separate certificate order with your regional office. Certificates will be shipped along with your handbooks. Since there are no handbooks for the G.R.E.A.T. Families component, if you need Families certificates, you will still need to order them separately. An online Families certificate order form is being added to the G.R.E.A.T. Web site.

Take advantage of these new handbooks for the upcoming school year. Do not copy old and outdated handbooks, as the curriculum is copyrighted. Not only will you benefit by saving money and ensuring that your instructor status remains active, your students will appreciate and benefit from the new handbooks as well.
G.R.E.A.T. Regions Have Been Reorganized

Effective October 1, 2009, the G.R.E.A.T. Program is being reorganized into four regions. The regions will now be referred to as Midwest-Atlantic, Southeast, Southwest, and West, and state assignment will be as indicated on the map.

The decision to adopt a new structure came after the Philadelphia Police Department announced that it would not continue its role as administrator of G.R.E.A.T. activities in the Northeast. The G.R.E.A.T. National Policy Board (NPB) appointed a committee to study regional workload, the number of G.R.E.A.T. instructors and programs per region, and other variables.

Based on the committee’s findings and approval by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the NPB decided that the states in the Northeast Region would be reassigned to the Midwest and Southeast regions. This resulted in changing the Midwest Region’s name to Midwest-Atlantic Region. During this realignment, the Southwest and West regions received a few more states as well in an effort to maintain balance. The Southeast Regional Training Center is also moving from Orlando to Nashville, under the leadership of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department.

Please use the visual provided to determine whether your state has been reassigned to a new region or will have a different regional office. If so, you may visit the G.R.E.A.T. Web site at www.great-online.org for your new region’s contact information.


The G.R.E.A.T. Program has selected NetSmartz products to assist in the facilitation of G.R.E.A.T. Families training on Internet safety and the impact of media on our families. NetSmartz (www.netsmartz.org) is produced by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), which is administered by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Because of the growth and complexity of today’s technology, families are presented with challenges never before encountered. A growing body of research identifies movies, television, and video games depicting violence as influences on the manifestation of violent and aggressive behavior in children. In addition, the Internet has opened our homes and families to the outside world and exposes our children to a world of hazards barely imagined a decade ago.

At the end of the first lesson I discussed the “Making My School a G.R.E.A.T. Place” Project. The previous year many of my students had wonderful ideas about how they would “Make Their School a G.R.E.A.T. Place,” but few were able to follow through on the project. I was hopeful this year would be different—I wanted them to do more than just talk about their ideas. I wanted them to experience the satisfaction of working through a project from concept to completion.

As Lesson Three arrived, I collected the project ideas and noticed a good number of the students wanted to remove graffiti in their neighborhood. While the graffiti was not directly tied to the school, the students argued that the graffiti affected their community, and Floyd Light Middle School was part of the community. While, I would have been happy to remove graffiti at Floyd Light Middle School, there was virtually no graffiti at the school.

I started to plan the project with the assistance of the students. We contacted the principal and obtained his permission. I also contacted the City of Portland’s Office of Graffiti Abatement and located a park near Floyd Light Middle School in which a local gang had spray painted gang tags and graffiti on approximately two hundred feet of wood fencing.

The project would not of been possible without help from the City of Portland’s Graffiti Abatement, which supplied paint and paint supplies; the trash containers and Porta-Potty supplied by Portland Parks Bureau; and the supervision provided by four Portland Police Bureau G.R.E.A.T. officers. The students were astonished to see how their teamwork over a period of only four hours, could transform the fence and restore Hazeltine Park to its original condition. The most important benefit for all involved came from the participation of the park’s name sake Dick Hazeltine, who not only worked alongside the students, but took time to praise the students for their efforts and encouraged them to be active in their community and to stay away from drugs and gangs.
Our G.R.E.A.T. Summer program operated for five weeks out of our Police Athletic League (P.A.L.) facility. We were able to provide 100 participants with a variety of experiences. In addition to being exposed to G.R.E.A.T. lessons, each class of approximately 20 youths participated in community service / neighborhood beautification and arts and crafts projects. Games and fun activities provided each participant with ample exercise.

The most favorite part of the summer program is our tradition of taking each class to the Moses Lake swimming pool. This recreational area includes an extensive water park atmosphere, with water slides, lazy river float, wave pool, wake board and surfing, as well as a excellent barbeque area. Volunteers, including some from P.A.L. assisted Yakima Police Department G.R.E.A.T. officers with monitoring and supervising the participants during the many activities.

As I started my second year as a G.R.E.A.T. instructor, I knew I wanted to create a more meaningful learning environment for my students than I had the previous year. Now that I had a year under my belt, I was much more comfortable with the curriculum and I felt that I could better utilize the G.R.E.A.T. Handbook.

I decided that this year, I wanted to hold more meaningful conversations with the students; to an extent, allowing them to "lead" the class to an extent. As we went through the workbook each week, I allowed the students greater latitude in their discussions of "Life in the Middle" and other parts of the lessons.

South San Francisco
G.R.E.A.T. Program
Corvette

In 2000, South San Francisco Police Department bought a 1980 Chevy Corvette for $2,000.00. The Corvette needed a lot of work! Several businesses in town had volunteered to work on the 1980 Chevy Corvette. The Corvette was brought to Euro Design for body work, a paint job, new upholstery and carpeting. The cost donated by Euro Design was $12,600. The Corvette was then brought to Roy Brizio Street Rods for mechanical work. The engine, brakes, suspension, exhaust, transmission, tires, etc were replaced. The cost donated by Roy Brizio Street Rods was $20,000.

The Corvette is a fully equipped police vehicle and in 2005 it finally hit the streets as the DARE Program car. In 2006 South San Francisco Police Department began teaching G.R.E.A.T. and in 2007 the Corvette was transformed into the G.R.E.A.T. Corvette. It is used for G.R.E.A.T. graduations, fairs, and other local events.

Regional Follow-Up

The Western Region would like to feature "G.R.E.A.T. Program Vehicles" in a future Western Region Newsletter. Please e-mail your picture and a history of the vehicle to Regional Administrative Assistant Narcisa Delgado-Grubb at ndelgado-grubb@portlandpolice.org.
G.R.E.A.T. Foundation, Inc.

You may have heard about the G.R.E.A.T. Foundation, Inc., and wondered what it is all about. This article will officially introduce you to the Foundation, its history, mission, and plans to assist you, the G.R.E.A.T. instructor.

In 2006, the G.R.E.A.T. National Policy Board (NPB) directed the establishment of a not-for-profit foundation able to accept private donations from public and private entities that want to assist the efforts of G.R.E.A.T. Incorporation papers were filed, and the G.R.E.A.T. Foundation, Inc., was formally established on July 11, 2006.

Initial progress was slow, but in January 2008 a mission statement and bylaws were adopted, and elections were held. During 2008, the 501(c)(3) application was completed, and in January 2009, the IRS granted tax-exempt status to the Foundation.

The Foundation became active during the time it was waiting for the paperwork to be processed and approved. With the help of $11,000 in start-up money, the Foundation provided support for the 2008 G.R.E.A.T. National Training Conference by assisting with presenter travel and sponsoring the travel for the video contest winner and his family. In addition, Foundation officers met with the vendors present at the conference to discuss licensing and royalty fees for G.R.E.A.T. logo usage.

In May 2009, the NPB, the G.R.E.A.T. Foundation, and the Institute for Intergovernmental Research (which manages the G.R.E.A.T. National Program Office) entered into a memorandum of agreement authorizing the Foundation to collect license fees and royalties from vendors for the use of the G.R.E.A.T. logo. These fees/royalties are purposely a nominal amount so there is as little impact as possible on local agencies. The money from the fees/royalties should begin reaching the Foundation later this fall.

The money raised will help the Foundation begin a national effort in corporate fundraising. To date, everything has been accomplished through volunteer efforts, but major fundraising will require at least one part-time employee. The Board of Directors has established a committee to develop guidelines for both an executive director and additional board members. Once the fundraising efforts are underway, the Board’s intent is to focus heavily on the Foundation’s mission statement, which is as follows:

The G.R.E.A.T. Foundation is dedicated to providing the Gang Resistance Education And Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program with charitable, scientific, educational, and research aid and promoting the educational training, research services, dissemination of information, and general education of students, classroom educators, instructors, and public through the G.R.E.A.T. Program.

This assistance will be provided through training seminars, conferences, and in-service trainings for G.R.E.A.T. instructors, the National Training Team, and educators. Because less than 20 percent of all agencies who offer G.R.E.A.T. are funded through federal grants, the Foundation envisions providing assistance to unfunded agencies with program delivery as our budget allows. We also seek to recognize excellence among educators and G.R.E.A.T. instructors with annual awards. In addition, the Foundation anticipates providing assistance to students who have made commitments to help their schools and communities stay violence-free by helping to fund their ideas and projects.

These are ambitious goals that will not be accomplished overnight, but the Foundation is counting on all of you to help it attain its goals. If you have contacts with corporations or businesses or ideas for raising funds, please contact one of the board members listed below. Together we can make a difference!

Contributed by Roger Barnes, Retired Sergeant, La Crosse Police Department, Wisconsin; President, G.R.E.A.T. Foundation, Inc.

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Woodrow Wilson Middle School
G.R.E.A.T. Students’ Bike Club Cleans Up

Police officer and G.R.E.A.T. instructor Jimmy Goad wanted to get students at Woodrow Wilson Middle School in Roanoke, Virginia, involved in their community. While the typical trash cleanup and graffiti painting do teach students about community involvement, Officer Goad leads members on group rides while teaching them about bike safety and everyday life issues.

The program has given away more than 37 bikes, and the kids have learned that they have a lot to give back to their community.

The conditional outreach projects include visiting a nursing home, doing yard work at an elderly person’s home, and cleaning up litter. In addition, the club’s bike-fixing activities, Officer Goad leads members on group rides while teaching them about bike safety and everyday life issues.

To obtain the bikes, Officer Goad went to a local community meeting and told citizens about the program. People started donating bikes. Kmart donated a truck full of bikes that had been returned because they were missing parts or were broken. The bike club also sold sodas and candy bars to raise money to buy tires and inner tubes. Even the school’s PTA got involved and bought the tools needed for the program.

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