

Snowball's Most FAQ!

- ***What exactly is Snowball?***

Snowball is a weekend retreat for high-school teens that focuses on self-discovery and personal growth. It is a positive, affirming environment where teens are able to talk with each other about issues important to them and come away with a support system of friends who are also making positive and healthy life-style choices.
- ***I hear people cry a lot at Snowball!***

The Snowball experience can be an emotional journey for some people. Snowball takes on some of the tough issues teens deal with in a very direct way. The result is letting teens know they are not alone and where to go for help. It's a good thing!
- ***So what do you do there?***

Activities range from very serious to being just plain silly. You will be part of a "small group" that will be your home base and family for the weekend. (This is a favorite part of the weekend.) You will also attend workshops of your choice and attend large group presentations. There is very little free time, but you won't even notice, as there are so many fun things planned - such as a No Talent Talent Show, Saturday nite Dance Party, bonfire at the beach, etc.
- ***What does "Teen-Led" mean?***

The great success of this program among teens is due largely to the fact that they have huge leadership roles, with adults working beside them as mentors and guides. Teens are the visible leaders and make decisions regarding which workshops & skits will be offered at each event. They also decide the theme, create the large group presentations, and even design the T-shirts! It is the Snowball philosophy that teens can influence each other in positive ways and know what their peers need to hear. So, we just let them go for it!
- ***Who goes to Snowball?***

The Naperville chapter of Operation Snowball draws from the five high schools within Districts 203 and 204. Each school has the same number of "slots" to fill before students are put on a waiting list. Additionally, we allow 10 – 12 adults to attend who are generally considering a future staffing role. If space allows, we also might have students from other chapters attend in an effort to keep ideas flowing between chapters.
- ***Who are the adults at Snowball?***

The Snowball adult staff is comprised of teachers, guidance counselors, social workers, parents of former Snowballers, and young adults who went through the program as teens. All adults have gone through the background check process and attend the 3-month Snowball training with the teen staffers for each event.
- ***What role do the schools play in Snowball?***

The Snowball retreats are school-sanctioned events. Each school has a contact that works with the Snowball coordinator at 360 Youth Services. The schools also provide space for trainings and help with some of the cost for buses. The students' Friday absence is treated as a field trip, with appropriate paperwork provided by the school contact.
- ***What role does 360 Youth Services play?***

360 Youth Services coordinates the Naperville Chapter of Operation Snowball, Inc. for the five schools it draws from. It is the administrative hub, overseeing staffing, training, and making sure students from all schools have an opportunity to experience Snowball.

For more information about Operation Snowball, Inc., please visit www.os-cgti.org