a.g.bell
Association for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing



2027

LEAP

LEARNING EXPERIENCE & ADVENTURE PROGRAM

HANDBOOK

CONNECTING TEENS WHEREVER THEY ARE.













WHAT IS LEAP?

LEAP is AG Bell's Learning Experience and Adventure Program. It is a 2.5 hour virtual program designed specifically for middle schoolers to meet other students from around the globe who use Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) to communicate, learn and enjoy life!

Most teens who are deaf and hard of hearing and use LSL do not know another peer who also uses LSL. LEAP brings these teens together through a series of fun activities, games and skill-building sessions.

Only 20 students are accepted into each session—that's a large number of new people to meet, swap stories with, and connect!



"This LEAP experience was very fun & entertaining. I loved the fact that I got to communicate with other deaf kids around the world and learn what they do in their daily life."

—LEAP PARTICIPANT

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

LEAP FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

12:30 – 12:35 P.M.	Introductions and Rules of the Day
12:35 – 12:45 P.M.	Activity: Who are you? (large group)
12:45 – 12:55 P.M.	Activity: Would You Rather? With Discussion (large group)
12:55 – 1:10 P.M.	Activity: Drawing You: What's Your Story (small groups)
1:10 – 1:15 P.M.	People Share: Sharing You w/wrap-up (large group)
1:15 – 1:25 P.M.	Talk Time w/ Break
1:25 – 1:40 P.M.	Activity: Epic Fail Restaurant Edition (large group)
1:40 – 2:00 P.M.	Activity: Epic Fail School Edition (small groups)
2:00 – 2:10 P.M.	Share/Wrap-up (large group)
2:10 – 2:20 P.M.	Talk Time w/Break
2:20 – 2:30 P.M.	Activity: Super Force! (large group)
2:30 – 2:45 P.M.	NTID/RIT Presentation
2:35 – 3:00 P.M.	Ask Us Anything! Wrap-Up from the day (large group)

"My favorite part of LEAP was the breakout rooms with just kids...no adults!!"

—6TH GRADE, LEAP PARTICIPANT

FAQS ABOUT LEAP

WHO ATTENDS LEAP?

LEAP participants are middle schoolers (grades 6-8), ages 11-14, from around the world who are deaf or hard of hearing and use Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) as their primary mode of communication. All programming is offered in English.

WHO ARE LEAP LEADERS?

LEAP is led and facilitated by deaf and hard of hearing adults who have grew up using LSL.

HOW MUCH DOES LEAP COST?

LEAP is completely FREE thanks to the generous donations of our sponsors!

To reserve a spot, families are required to fill out the registration form.

Families will be notified of acceptance at least one week before the session and will receive Zoom details via email and calendar invite.

HOW DO TEENS ACCESS LEAP?

LEAP participants will need access to a computer or mobile device that will connect to the "live" LEAP program sessions on Zoom. We'll send you the invitation once you register. The program will be presented in spoken English, with remote captioning or speech-to-text written English transcription provided in all sessions. LEAP is only available in the "live" format.

ELIGIBILTY

To qualify, registrants must have a bilateral or unilateral hearing loss. Registrants must also use Listening and Spoken Language as the primary method of communication. Remote Live and Automated Captioning are used during the LEAP program. The program is provided in English. If you have limited English proficiency, please make the LEAP staff aware and specify.

TESTIMONIALS

LEAP participants have a lot to say about the program! Below is a selection of testimonials from teens and parents about their LEAP experience:

"When I first came to LEAP, I knew I had made the right choice. The people I came across, the fun and engaging activities we did harmoniously, was amazing. I will never forget this wonderful and fantastic experience. I recommend you bring your kids to this program; they will love it and so will you."

—LEAP TEEN PARTICIPANT



"It's fun and you get to hang out with kids your age and you mostly have the same interests. Some kids liked Call of Duty, some like to read, some kids liked Wings of Fire like me."

—LEAP PARTICIPANT



“This is the first time I have met with others my age who are deaf and use spoken language to communicate. I really enjoyed chatting with them. Thank you for making my world seem small. It’s nice to know others “get it” and the challenges of being deaf and using listening and spoken language. I wouldn’t have it any other way, but at times, it can be hard.”

—LEAP PARTICIPANT



“LEAP was a great experience for me to connect with other deaf and hard of hearing kids my age! I loved talking with the other kids, and making connections with them!”

—LEAP PARTICIPANT

HEAR FROM LEAP PARENTS

Parents of the LEAP attendees tell us that their teen gained confidence, a sense of belonging and acceptance among other young teens who understand the challenges of living with hearing loss.

“LEAP was an informative and validating experience for my child. Thank you!”

“My son was a little unsure about joining a video call with other middle school kids with hearing loss, but he was following along and engaged the whole time. He said it was interesting to hear from kids in other places.”

“These programs at AG Bell are a true lifeline for our family. Participating feels like a breath of fresh air; the support they provide is unparalleled and means the world to us as we navigate this journey. Every program is clearly well-thought-out, intentional, and purposeful. I am incredibly grateful for the impact LEAP has had on my child and the community they have fostered. ”

—LEAP PARENT



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