

## **STRAND** Facilitator Training

**OBJECTIVE:** To provide training to staff members who wish to qualify for challenge course facilitator.

### **Overview:**

At the current time, there are approximately 15 staff members who have completed facilitator training and who are eligible to run students and participants through the Challenge Course. Training for the position of facilitator requires a commitment of over 144 hours. This training is broken down into several different areas: Adventure Based Counseling, Safety and Standards, Advanced Leadership skills, Standard First Aid and CPR training. New facilitators serve as apprentices so that they may develop their skills under the support and feedback of other experienced facilitators. This method of review is ongoing and provides all facilitators with a forum that promotes continued personal mastery, and course development.

In an ongoing effort to remain current with the latest developments in the area of challenge courses and experiential education, the Southern Exposure Challenge Course team has joined the Association for Experiential Education. The association provides current research in the field as well as an international network of challenge course practitioners with whom we can communicate with in order to assimilate new information. We have recognized that isolation of staff from the current trends in experiential education could lead to a less progressive program and eventually to stagnation. To overcome that concern, we have from time to time brought in outside consultants not only to provide us with a new look at our programs, but to also evaluate our safety procedures and course integrity. Conversely we have also sent staff to workshops. So comprehensive is our training that other school districts and organizations such as Lacey, Lakewood, Point Pleasant Beach, Barnegat, Waretown and New Beginnings have sent staff members to be trained by Southern's staff.