

## **STRAND** Peer Leadership Workshops

**OBJECTIVE:** To design and deliver workshops that will develop leadership skills.

### **Overview:**

As our largest and most productive “out of district” strand, our Peer Leadership workshops have provided leadership training to hundreds of Ocean County children. From ages nine to eighteen, students have used our course to gain insight into the skills and attitudes necessary to become leaders in today’s society. Students are given the opportunity to learn group interaction skills, skills necessary to successfully meet challenges, problem solving and decision making strategies, mediation skills and the ability to understand how outside factors can influence choices. So positive has been the feedback that we have had a number of “out of district” requests for staff training in peer leadership. Due to this increased demand, an entire “mobile Challenge Course” has been designed so that districts without the benefit of a ropes course can begin to use the experiential model to develop leadership skills among their own student population. This “mobile Challenge Course” is now annually set up at the Southern’s peer leadership weekend so that our own peer leadership training can utilize it as an instructional tool. Request for peer leadership training has outgrown the time limits of the course; this has lead to the need to select who we would like to train. The Challenge Course Team recognizes that these conditions are not ideal and they deviate from the mission statement.