

## Soaring to New Heights!

# Flight Program



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## Leaving the nest... the first month

### WHO WE ARE...

**W**e are the Flight Program. We are a group of young men who made poor choices when we were younger and ended up getting sent to placement at the Diakon Wilderness Center. Most of us have been in and out of the system, placements, and detention centers. That was the past.

Today is the future. Today we are *voluntarily* participating in the Flight Program and we're taking new and challenging steps in our lives to change and become successful. We rely on one another for support. We attempt to do what is right, not what is easy. We now look towards the future and our goals instead of living "in the moment." We want the best that this world has to offer and we're now ready to go after it—the honorable way. We are separating from our old friends—they don't know what to think of us anymore. Our families don't know us anymore... they're impressed. Our old teachers, probation officers, and everyone else in our communities that we struggled to understand will soon see that we're going to make it.

We now have positive dreams and goals. We believe in helping others along the path to success: *as iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another*. We are discovering and using the tools and resources in our communities to achieve our goals. We are breaking free from our comfort zones and Soaring to New Heights.

We sacrifice our weekends to be with our brothers. We let go of the old Friday night parties; now we spend that time helping each other and the community. We're not afraid to cry in front of each other. We're not afraid to ask for help. We dropped that front. Fridays and Saturdays are now about positive people, places, and things. We're on the move—in and out of state, going to new events, eating new foods, meeting new people, hiking new trails, and always... telling our story.

*Many Hands. One Heart.™*



*View from Annapolis Rocks, Maryland*

### *In the Past 45 Days:*

College Acceptance Letters: 4

Community Service Hours: 64

Completed Applications for  
Employment: 41

States Visited: 4

Miles Driven: 10,000

Miles Hiked: 62

Miles Paddled: 30

Grilled Hamburgers, Hot Dogs,  
& Chicken: 77 lbs

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Recap of our first month:



The participants have certainly begun to take flight towards lofty goals and dreams. In our first month, our weekends have been jammed-packed with Teakwondo practice, helping out around the grounds of Mt. Asbury, attending the Harrisburg Stampede's last arena football game of the season, paddling the Conodoguinet Creek, hiking and camping in both West Virginia and Maryland, and spending quality time with one another at "The Lodge." Fridays have quickly developed into our growth day: participants have been utilizing the time before dinner to research colleges, complete both college and employment applications, apply for scholarships and grants, or to talk with with their coach and peers about what the future may hold. We then eat "family-style" whatever great meal Brandon has created for us before heading out to the Fire Circle for group discussions, stories, and feedback.

Thank you so much Ted, Ashley, and Pete for joining us for a Friday night dinner! We certainly welcome and look forward to future visitors.



## Meet John:

At 19 years of age, John was lacking direction in his life. Although he always seemed to have a positive attitude, ever-present smile, and wasn't afraid to get "into" his work (as shown here), John

wasn't sure where he was going or even what options he had in his life. Now, John has begun to evolve into a young man with a purpose and an exciting future. With his Flight Coach at his side, he has been able to enroll in college and obtain grants and scholarships to make attending school essentially free. In addition, he is currently searching for employment. "I knew I was capable of going somewhere in life - I just needed motivation. That's what we're all about, the coaches and my peers... we push ourselves to a higher level."

Check out our participant-created webpage for more pictures and updates:

[www.myspace.com/flightboys2009](http://www.myspace.com/flightboys2009)