



Engage. Lead. Inspire.

BOYS LEADERSHIP SUMMITT (BLS) HISTORY

What is the BLS?

In the Spring of 2010, author and radio personality Michael Baisden's 1 Million Mentors Campaign was held in Chattanooga. He challenged the attendees with the following statement, "What are you going to do when I leave Chattanooga?"

On May 18 2010, a group of men from various organizations (e.g fraternities, 100 Black Men, Boule, Shriners, Masons, service organizations, etc.), with an interest in helping young African-American males become successful and productive adults, began planning a Boys' Leadership Summit (BLS) to be held in October 2010. The Boys' Leadership Summit (BLS) targets males in grades 6-12 and will involve workshops, training and other activities to help attendees learn to cope with issues and problems facing youth today. Last year, over 150 boys, 50 parents and 75 men attended this event.

Previous keynote speakers include:

- 2010 - Business Entrepreneur Mr. Uchendi "Chin" Nwani
- 2011 - Actor and philanthropist Cylk Cozart
- 2012 – local radio personality Eric Foster
- 2013 – Honorable Judge Curtis Collier
- 2014 – Vincent Phipps, Founder and Owner of Communications VIP

*In 2015 & 2016, the BLS merged with the Annual Girls Summit to form the Annual Youth Blast Conference.

Why the BLS?

Men involved with the BLS have the collective will to come together to take ownership of the problems facing our youth in our community. There is not a lack of mentoring organizations; there is a lack of boys and men involved with the existing mentoring organizations. We will partner with existing established mentoring organization in our community to refer boys who attend the BLS and provide access to mentors who can get involved with their program.

Partnering Mentor Organizations:

- Big Brother Big Sisters of Chattanooga
- Boys and Girls Club of Chattanooga
- City of Chattanooga Youth Development & Family Services
- OnPoint
- Goodwill Mentor Program
- Chattanooga State
- Stop the Madness / Men of Vision

COST

This event is FREE to all middle/high school age boys and their parents to attend. There will be free breakfast, lunch and souvenirs for registered attendees.

CONTACT

For additional information, please visit the BLS website, www.sethc.org, or contact Chris Ramsey, at 423-619-0732.

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