

Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes is pleased to present the September Leader Ledger! The Leader Ledger is a monthly newsletter designed to keep you updated on the latest Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes information. If you have any questions or want more information about anything you see in the Leader Ledger, please [contact us](#).

How the Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes Program Changed My Life

By: Memory Reese, Elmore Church of Christ, Elmore, Ala.



I was fourteen years old. I eagerly awaited my turn to climb the stairs and walk into the arena press box, as the door closed behind me. I was feeling the butterflies; not of fear, but of sheer exhilaration. As I looked around at the other competitors, it appeared as if I was the only contestant eager and equipped to perform.

Finally, it was my turn to meet the expectant judges. I stood alone, facing four judges, as they sat toying with the scoring sheets that lay blank on the table before them.

You may be wondering, where was I? And why was I so impatient about giving... a speech? I was participating in an event that I love: rodeo. You may be imagining bull riding, mutton busting, barrel racing, calf roping... No, this is an aspect of rodeo that many rodeo spectators do not see.

I'll give you a hint. My hair is curled, my cowboy hat has been steamed and shaped, my boots are polished and my western clothes-with sequined snaps-have been creased. Did you guess? You're right if you guessed a rodeo-queen competition.

Many do not know what rodeo-queen competitions involve. When most think of queen competitions, they probably think of girls in high heels and glitzy dresses. This is not how a rodeo chooses its queen.

A rodeo-queen competition involves riding a complicated pre-determined horsemanship pattern learned by rider and horse. An interview of each competitor is completed. And my favorite part: an expected well-organized speech delivery.

You may be wondering what rodeo-queen competitions have to do with Lads to Leaders. In my world, the two opposites perfectly connect. Lads to Leaders had prepared me in a difficult area of rodeo-queen competition. Unlike most of the other cowgirls, I had my speech memorized and was well prepared to face the judges without becoming unnerved, thanks to Lads to Leaders.

The majority of the other girls' favorite aspect of the rodeo-queen competition was not speech. In fact, most of them dreaded it. However, speech was my favorite portion because of my previous participation in numerous Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes speech events.

If it had not been for the Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes speech competition, I would not anticipate with great excitement the joy of getting up in front of others and speaking publicly, whether it be a panel of judges adorning cowboy hats and boots or a large crowd of women at church.

Without the training provided by Lads to Leaders, I would not have gone on to win this rodeo queen competition. I am grateful that Lads to Leaders has given me this valuable experience of public speaking. Hopefully, I will use this skill in the future to influence others in life successes.

Prayer Request: Hayes Family of Eustis, Fla.



Nathan Hayes, a 10-year-old student at the Christian Home and Bible School in Mount Dora, Fla., and a Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes participant, was killed in a tragic accident last weekend. The Hayes family attends Orange Avenue Church of Christ in Eustis and was active in Lads to Leaders. Nathan's father, Steven, is the basketball coach at CH&BS; the driver and passenger of the other car are also members of the Lord's church and volunteers at the school. Please remember in prayer the families involved and the school that is so deeply impacted.

Below is a story on the accident from NBC affiliate WESH in Orlando.

A fourth-grade boy died in what police called an unusual accident Saturday night along County Road 44 near West Eldorado Drive in the Eustis area.

Ten-year-old Nathan Hayes of Eustis was riding in his father's pickup, when they came upon a large tree limb blocking the road, police said. The pickup crashed, but everyone was OK.

Officers said Nathan's father, Steven, had him move to the side of the road to get away from the crash.

While Nathan was on the side of the road, a car driven by 73-year-old Richard Sineath came around the curve, saw the crash and tree in the road, and swerved, tragically striking Nathan.

Police said Sineath is a volunteer at Mount Dora Bible School, where Nathan was a fourth-grade student.

The story has gripped the community, and several people have visited the crash scene, making a memorial for him there and at the school.

Grief counselors will be on hand Monday morning to help students cope with the boy's death.

The Florida Highway Patrol is investigating the crash, and so far, does not expect to issue any charges.

Read more [here](#).

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Building Godly Leaders for Tomorrow

New Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes Online Store Now Open!

Now you can order Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes books, materials and products right from your computer! The new Lads to Leaders online store is up and running, and includes pictures and descriptions of everything we have to offer.

[Click here](#) to visit our store and start shopping!

Save the Date! 2012 Leadership Camp



Make plans now to join us at one of our 2012 Leadership Camps! Both camps will focus on the theme "Why Jesus?" and will include great speakers, classes, fellowship and activities!

Faulkner University: June 24-29
Freed-Hardeman University: July 26-29

Visit our [website](#) for more information and for pictures of the great week we had at the 2011 Leadership Camp!

Debate Topic Announced

Resolved: Baptism - immersion in water - is essential for salvation.

Other important convention information:

Convention Date: April 6-8, 2012
Locations: Atlanta, Dallas, Indianapolis, Memphis, Nashville, Orlando

Overall Theme: We'll Work 'til Jesus Comes

Bible Bowl: James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter

Pearls Study Series: Called **Convention Registration**

Opens: Saturday, December 3 at 8:00 a.m.(CST)

Registration Deadline for Event Participation: January 23, 2012

Hotel Reservation Deadline: March 2, 2012

Pre-convention Events:

Postmarked by January 23, 2012

Scholarship Applications:

Postmarked by January 23, 2012

Bible Bowl and Pearls Test:

February 8-21, 2012. MUST be postmarked by February 21, 2012.

Watch your mailbox for the convention registration packets this fall! ****Please let us know as soon as possible if your group leader has changed so that the packets will go to the correct person!****