

## Facts

**Number of years:** 25 years

**Number of schools trained:** 3,640

**Number of educators trained:** 12,356

**Number of states:** 47

**Number of Canadian provinces:** 7

**International Schools:** 7 schools, 7 countries (China, Mexico, Panama, South Korea, Thailand, UAE, & Vietnam)

**Students Impacted each year**

In North America: 1,800,000

All incoming freshmen

20% of a school's juniors and seniors

35% of a school's overall population

## FAQs

**What makes Link Crew different from other freshman orientation and transition programs that are provided by outside sources or companies?**

Four factors make the Link Crew program unique.

1. The Link Crew training is designed to be a train the trainers conference. Over the three-day Basic Training, the Link Crew Coordinators are given the knowledge, skills and tools to fully implement and run a Link Crew program at their school. As a result, Link Crew is a self-sustaining program that continues to run year after year without the need to hire an outside source to return.
2. Link Crew is a yearlong program, not just an orientation program. The connection between the Link Leaders (members of the junior and senior classes) and the freshmen begins at the orientation and continues throughout the year within a structure to intentionally support the freshmen.
3. Link Crew focuses on selecting and developing leaders from a cross section of the student body. If you were to take a snapshot of your Link Crew Leaders, it would be a mini portrait of your student body, reflecting the variety of social, ethnic and language groups at your school.
4. The Link Crew training methodology for both staff and students is among the best in the nation. 95% of participants consistently rate the training among the best professional development experiences of their career and students regularly cite the Link Crew training as one of the most important of their high school experience. Link Crew combines proven techniques from the traditional classroom with best practices in brain-based learning, collaborative structures, experiential learning and intrinsic motivation to create a learning environment that is rich, collegial and powerful.

**What is the cost to get trained?**

The cost is \$2595 per person, all inclusive, meaning the cost of the training includes room, food, and materials at the three-day Basic Training as well as including the cost of a fourth day of training that takes place the following fall, called the Follow Up Conference.

**What are the startup and ongoing costs for Link Crew?**

Cost for attending the three-day Basic Training is the greatest expense of the program. Once a school has made its initial investment in training their Coordinators, the ongoing costs are minimal. The must have costs are: t-shirts for the Link Crew Leaders and Coordinators, copy costs for Leader training handbooks, minimal supplies for the activities and nametags for the Leaders and freshmen. Costs for the year long program that runs throughout the school year will vary, depending on the number and type of activities. We estimate that a high school with a freshman class of 400 could run a very solid program on \$1400 per year and that number could be dramatically reduced with community donations.

# Link Crew Facts & FAQs



## **Do we have to pay royalties for each year that we use Link Crew?**

No, once a person has gone through the entire three-day Basic Training, that person is certified to run the program at that school with no additional payment to the Boomerang Project.

## **How many people should we get trained?**

We recommend that you train a minimum of two people per school. Still better is to use the ratio of one person trained for each 125 incoming students. So, for a freshman class of 400, we would recommend that you train three people. The challenge you will face in training too few people is that if all trained people leave the school, the school cannot continue to run the Link Crew program as it is a trademarked program and requires a certified person to run it. In addition, because the program reaches so many students, having 3-4 staff members trained will allow the greatest reach. Many schools start with 2-4 people and then build their teams through the following years in order to improve its program as well as provide more staff members to be involved in positive interaction with the students and school community.

## **Is Link Crew a certification program?**

Yes. Once a person has completed a three-day Basic Training, they are certified to run the Link Crew program at any school at which they are employed. If they move to a new school, the certification goes with them and they are eligible to implement a Link Crew program or contribute to an already existing program at their new school.

## **Can I get college credit for the training?**

Yes. We have a partnership with Brandman University where you can earn college credit after completing each training that you attend.

## **Where have people previously obtained funds for Link Crew?**

Schools fund Link Crew in a number of ways ranging from site budgets to district budgets to parent organizations to grants. Schools most commonly fund Link Crew with either Staff Development or Site Council line item allocated spending, however Link Crew supports so many different aspects of a successful school that different programs have been funded by any number of local, state and federal programs and grants. Link Crew is ideal for many grants because it is highly sustainable once implemented at a school. Please see "Funding Sources" on the Boomerang Project website for ideas.

## **What research do you have that supports the success of Link Crew?**

Link Crew is the most studied and researched single transition program in the country. We collect data from individual school sites that use a before and after approach for some of their more important indicators of success including grades, discipline, connection to school and feelings of safety. With the correct implementation, Link Crew has also worked for several schools to increase test scores and lower drop-out rates. Because the implementation of Link Crew varies dramatically as schools customize the program to meet their needs, we do not have an overall study of the program's broad impact. However, on request we can share with you PhD and Master's theses as well as a variety of school's self-reported success.