



ABOUT CHARACTER COUNTS!sm

Miss Illinois 2008 Katie Lorenz will be traveling the state of this school year speaking to Illinois students about **CHARACTER COUNTS!sm** and promoting **The Six Pillars of Charactersm**. **CHARACTER COUNTS!sm** is the most widely implemented approach to character education, reaching millions of youth.

CHARACTER COUNTS!sm is...

...a framework based on basic values called **The Six Pillars of Charactersm**:

TRUSTWORTHINESS:

Be honest • Don't deceive, cheat or steal • Be reliable — do what you say you'll do • Have the courage to do the right thing • Build a good reputation • Be loyal — stand by your family, friends and country

RESPECT:

Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule • Be tolerant of differences • Use good manners, not bad language • Be considerate of the feelings of others • Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone • Deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements

RESPONSIBILITY:

Do what you are supposed to do • Persevere: keep on trying! • Always do your best • Use self-control • Be self-disciplined • Think before you act — consider the consequences • Be accountable for your choices

FAIRNESS:

Play by the rules • Take turns and share • Be open-minded; listen to others • Don't take advantage of others • Don't blame others carelessly

CARING:

Be kind • Be compassionate and show you care • Express gratitude • Forgive others • Help people in need

CITIZENSHIP:

Do your share to make your school and community better • Cooperate • Get involved in community affairs • Stay informed; vote • Be a good neighbor • Obey laws and rules • Respect authority • Protect the environment

...embraced by thousands of schools, communities, public agencies and nonprofit organizations for a simple reason – it works. These groups receive support and development from a national office, which offers training programs, free e-newsletters, resources and free consultation.

...nonprofit, not religious or political (though used by both secular and faith-based groups, and supported by public officials of both major parties).

...not a curriculum or add-on, but a powerful means to advance curricular and behavioral goals.

Having completed an intensive training process, Katie is now a *Certified Presenter* of **CHARACTER COUNTS!sm**. Her presentations typically last between 30-40 minutes (25-30 minute presentation and 10-15 minutes for Q&A with the students or signing autographs) and they can be tailored to fit your school's bell schedule.

For more details about how a **Miss Illinois CHARACTER COUNTS!sm** assembly can serve as a "TRRFFC" addition to your school's character building initiatives, contact **Business Manager Jason Pawlowski** at (630) 977-9290, via e-mail at: missilmedia@sbcglobal.net or visit our website at www.missillinois.org



ABOUT RIGHT DECISIONS/RIGHT NOW

One of the programs Miss Illinois 2008 Katie Lorenz speaks at schools about is Right Decisions/Right Now, a program which helps students make good choices in their personal lives, with particular focus on the perils of smoking and tobacco use.

Everyday, we make up to 17,000 decisions. Some of them will be easy. Others will be more difficult. You make some decisions automatically - you don't stop and think about them before reacting. Others require lots of thinking. Both kinds involve a complicated mental process. Every time you make a decision, your mind goes through some version of the following steps:

- 1.) **Conflict** - Why do you have to make a decision?
- 2.) **Goal** - What do you want to happen?
- 3.) **Alternatives** - What are your choices?
- 4.) **Consequences** - What good or bad things can happen?
- 5.) **Decision** - Making your choice.
- 6.) **Reflection** - How do you feel about your choice?

Topics include the differences between peer pressure and peer influence and how both can affect young people's lives, realizing consequences, identifying values and taking personal responsibility.

While meaningful for students of all ages, these presentations are typically geared more towards students grades 6-9.

For a limited time, Illinois junior high schools and high schools can book Katie for a Right Decisions/Right Now assembly at their school FREE OF CHARGE**.

For more details, contact Business Manager Jason Pawlowski at (630) 977-9290 or e-mail: missillmedia@sbcglobal.net

** Limited to the first 20 schools to book an appearance. Mileage/travel fees still apply. One assembly per school.

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