



September 12, 2011
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Questions Directed to: info@masongsmoakfoundation.org

Smoak Foundation Holds First Meeting of Youth Leadership Highlands

Sebring, Highlands County – The Mason G. Smoak Foundation's Youth Leadership Highlands, a year-long leadership program for high school students in Highlands County, met on September 10th at the Inn on the Lakes. This "opening retreat" provided an opportunity for the class members to get to know each other and receive training for the program days to come throughout the year by Dr. Hannah Carter, University of Florida Assistant Professor and Director of the Wedgworth Leadership Institute. You can learn more about the Wedgworth Leadership Institute by going to the following website: www.wlianr.com.

The following students are in Class One of Youth Leadership Highlands:

Avon Park High School: Taylor Brown, Zach Farr, Mason Jahna, Kenny McGrath, and Sherida Zeeuw.

Lake Placid High School: Melissa Barajas, Stephanie Bennett, Allison Burnett, Laura Candeletta, Laine Daum, Jessie Sanders, and Luci Torres.

Sebring High School: Marissa Andujar, Dillon Cloud, Raymond Drevermann, Elton Gargano, and Scout Royce.

Next on the agenda for these students will be their first day trip which will be October 28th where they will learn about the social service programs offered in Highlands County. The following are the other dates for their day trips during the school year and the theme of each day:

December 2, 2011:	Economic Development/Tourism/The Arts
January 23, 2012:	Agriculture and Environment
February 22, 2012:	Government and Education
April 6, 2012:	Business and Finance

The program is sponsored by the Mason G. Smoak Foundation and hopes to instill in these students a greater appreciation for Highlands County and the Ridge Area, while encouraging the students to grow personally and academically toward their goals. To learn more about the Foundation go to www.masongsmoakfoundation.org.

(See Photos Next Page)

Photos from the Mason G. Smoak Foundation Opening Retreat of the "Youth Leadership Highlands" Program



Tracee Smoak, member of the Mason G. Smoak Foundation Board, addressing the group.

You can download this picture by going to this link: <https://files.me.com/rayhodge/0vfiu0>



Dr. Hannah Carter is shown leading the group through one of many exercises of the day.

You can download this picture by going to this link: <https://files.me.com/rayhodge/ptqgv4>



Program participants are working on a project to improve their team working and problem solving skills.

You can download this picture by going to this link: <https://files.me.com/rayhodge/hk63lx>



Program participant, Raymond Drevermann of Sebring High School, successfully drops his team's egg into the basket they made without any cracks.

You can download this picture by going to this link: <https://files.me.com/rayhodge/rrp9fk>



Program participants working as a team on one of the several exercises experienced during the day.

You can download this picture by going to this link: <https://files.me.com/rayhodge/2sr724>



You can download our logo by going to this link:

<https://files.me.com/rayhodge/vto2v0>