



# Saint Louis County

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Annual Iron Range Young Leaders' Conference marks 20<sup>th</sup> year

The Iron Range Young Leaders Conference got its start back in 1996, with the goal of bringing youth together from across the Iron Range for a time of inspiration and sharing designed by area youth for area youth. Fast forward to 2015 and the tradition of encouraging youth leadership continues, with more than 400 students – none of whom were even born when the conference first started – expected to gather for the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Young Leaders Conference. The half-day event takes place February 9, from 9 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., at Fortune Bay Resort on Lake Vermilion.

This year's keynote speaker is Ted Schick, a corporate trainer, professional speaker, consultant and owner of Schick Corporate Learning. A retired naval officer who rose up from the enlisted ranks, Schick, who now lives in Esko, Minn., has over 30 years' experience leading people. He also does stand-up comedy, teaches Boot Camp fitness classes and is an accomplished triathlete. Schick holds a Bachelor's degree in Business from the University of Wisconsin, Madison; a teaching certificate from Bemidji State University; and Master of Education from the University of Minnesota, Duluth.

Another featured presenter at this year's conference is Daren Streblow, a stand-up comic and radio host of the syndicated Daren Streblow Comedy Hour. The Ely-native has made a name for himself as a clean comedian and will present "The Power of Being Unique".

The Iron Range Young Leaders Conference will also feature seven workshops presented by Iron Range Youth in Action (IRYA) members from across the Iron Range. Topics include tips on protecting yourself from internet predators, healthy snacking options, recycling, distracted driving,

the effects of GMOs on a body, stereotypes, and exercising your way to a happy, healthy life. Entertainment will also be provided by IRYA youth.

“This annual conference highlights the talent of our youth and the difference that they – through IRYA –make in our communities on a daily basis,” said Commissioner Keith Nelson, who chairs the IRYA Board.

IRYA is a service organization that brings together students from 13 schools and 37 communities. Its mission is to promote youth leadership and bring positive change to northern Minnesota.

The Young Leaders Conference is funded in part by the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners as well as local businesses. For more information about the conference or IRYA, call (218) 749-7114 or visit [irya.org](http://irya.org).

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