Program Summary

CHAMPS, Connected Leadership, Peace Makers & Problem Solvers
CHAMPS Program

CHAMPS students work together to help countries around the world demine dangerous areas and re-establish normal living conditions.

- CHAMPS connects kids in North America with children in mine-affected countries via video-messenger, so they can become friends and learn about each other.

- CHAMPS students in North America work to raise money to sponsor Mine Detection Dogs (MDD) and to support mine survivors.

- CHAMPS students in mine-affected countries receive mine risk education that they share with others in their community.

Children Against Mines Program (CHAMPS) is an educational outreach program that engages students in the global effort to rid the world of landmines. The program raises awareness about landmines and gives students the chance to fundraise and sponsor their very own Mine Detection Dog (MDD). Students within the U.S. also connect with students in mine-affected countries to promote global citizenship and cultural exchange.

Connecting Countries and Children

Participating Countries

Bosnia Herzegovina - Colombia - United States - Yemen

Learning Activities

Cultural Awareness

- Geography
- History
- Government and Economics
- Daily Life
- Traditions

Skill Development

- Leadership
- Peace Keeping
- Problem Solving
- Communication
Connected Leadership

Connected Leadership students work collaboratively to raise awareness of landmines and the impact they have in post conflict areas.

- Young leaders learn to think critically about the world around them.
- Participants engage in learn-by-leading activities where they focus on skill development and experiential learning.
- Young leaders apply skills acquired through interactive activities from the LeadYoung Curriculum.

Connected Leadership (Ages 10 - 15)

Connected Leadership is a global leadership program that engages students in an effort to promote landmine awareness. The program incorporates the history and challenges faced by post conflict countries while empowering young people to apply leadership skills through interactions with other young people around the world.

Connecting Countries and Children

Participating Countries

Bosnia Herzegovina - United States - Yemen

Learning Activities

Landmine Awareness
- Post-conflict Countries
- Landmine Education
- Survivors

Skill Development
- Leadership
- Peace Keeping
- Problem Solving
- Communication

Marshall Legacy Institute—Removing Landmines, Promoting Stability
Peace Makers & Problem Solvers (Ages 14—19)

Young people from North America partner with youth in conflict-affected countries to identify global challenges. Through video conferences, internet exchanges and leadership conferences, young people work to identify significant humanitarian issues and collaborate to work towards a solution.

Connecting Countries and Children

Participating Countries

Bosnia Herzegovina - Colombia - United States

Learning Activities

Humanitarian Awareness

• History of Conflict
• Conflict Resolution
• Identification and Utilization of Resources

Skill Development

• Leadership
• Peace Keeping
• Problem Solving
• Communication
What Are the Side-Effects of Landmines?

Landmine casualties deprive communities and families of income earners and treasured parents, siblings, spouses, and relatives.

According to the United Nations, approximately 2,000 people are killed or injured by landmines every month.

Over half the landmine casualties are civilians. Among civilian casualties, more than 40% are children.

A mine costs between $3 and $30. The cost to neutralize a mine is between $300 and $1,000 and surgical care costs about $3,000 per amputee in developing countries.

Buried landmines can remain active for over 50 years. Landmines have injured and killed thousands of U.S. and allied troops in every U.S. conflict since the 1900s, including the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Landmines set in motion a series of events that can lead to environmental damage in the form of soil degradation, deforestation, and the pollution of water resources.

The U.S. State Department estimates that fewer than one in four landmine amputees is fitted with a proper prosthesis.

Landmines deprive people in some of the poorest countries of arable land and infrastructure. They cut off access to markets, schools, work, and water.

Landmines hamper the repatriation of refugees and displaced people.

Landmines hinder reconstruction, new development, and the delivery of aid.

Landmine injuries put a great burden on a country’s whole health system. People hurt by mines need more antibiotics and more dressings, and they need to stay in the hospital longer than most other patients.

Female child casualties are often under reported. In some countries, having a disability is seen as a stigma that needs to be hidden, especially among girls.
WHAT DOES MLI DO?

The Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI) is a Virginia-based 501(c)3 nonprofit that was formed in 1997 to extend the vision of Nobel Peace Laureate George C. Marshall by alleviating suffering and promoting hope, growth, and stability in war-torn countries.

MLI’s primary mission is to establish practical, affordable, and sustainable indigenous programs to help severely mine-affected countries rid their land of the horrific scourge of landmines and deal with their lasting impacts. This includes the development, expansion, and sustainment of the Mine Detection Dog Partnership Program (MDDPP), which provides Mine Detection Dogs (MDDs) to accelerate the pace of landmine clearance operations; the Survivors’ Assistance program, which helps those who have been injured by landmines; and the Children Against Mines Program (CHAMPS), which promotes global citizenship and involves American youth in meaningful service-learning projects to help children living in war-torn countries who have been injured by landmines. These three programs: 1) provide valuable resources, especially mine detection dogs (MDDs), and training to incorporate the dogs into landmine clearance operations; 2) train national leaders charged with mine action responsibilities and provide specialized training to doctors & rehabilitation teams; 3) educate citizens in the US and abroad about the dangers of mines and involve them in the solution; and 4) support interethnic reconciliation in post-conflict societies by linking children from different ethnic groups and uniting them behind a common cause. MLI provides resources and training to help countries build their own affordable, practical and sustainable humanitarian demining programs.