



Presents:



What's With the New Name?

Every mentor and JourneyMan (JMan) has a chance to take on a second name. Some use an animal name as a totem for spiritual guidance. Some choose a description of their inner landscape. Some choose an archetypal or mythological symbol of personal power. Some choose their second name and keep it for life. Others shift their second name along with the changes that come to their lives. In any case, a name is important and changing one's name is a big deal. That's why we have a ritual that makes the change known to the tribe.

Using a completely fictitious example, here what the ritual looks like: The one changing his name stands in the center of the circle and lets everyone know what his new name will be. The circle casts out the old name by saying, "You are no longer Walking Cactus. You are no longer Walking Cactus. You are no longer Walking Cactus." Then the circle recognizes the new name by saying, "You are now Soaring Blue Bird, Soaring Blue Bird, Soaring Blue Bird." Then the elders lead everyone in blessing the one who has claimed his new name.

So what does it mean that we're changing the name of our organization? Well, not a whole lot to the community that we serve. We're going to keep delivering the ongoing mentoring groups and initiation weekends that we've been doing since 2003. We're going to continue to offer each teenage boy that chooses to join us a way to explore his path to the kind of man he wants to be in a safe way. We're going to continue to offer an opportunity of service to men interested in helping youth get what they need to grow into healthy adults. We'll keep providing a place for men to grow as mentors and elders. And we're going to give everyone a chance to gain satisfaction by supporting to a worthy cause.

The biggest change is that we're going to call the program what it is – Journey to Manhood. We started out as the Colorado chapter of the Boys to Men and then incorporated as a non-profit under the name Threshold Passages, Inc. (TPI). The change will help our leaders and partners tell people what we do when they ask about us. No more instances of "So that's a '90s boy band right?" or "Do you make doorways or something?" When someone hears about Journey to Manhood, the next question is "Okay, what do you do for boys?" That's the question we want to answer.

TPI will still be around. We're elevating it to a community building entity. TPI will continue to sponsor the Journey to Manhood (J2M) program to serve teen boys. However, since the TPI leader team finished a series of strategic planning sessions last year, we've been looking for ways to build bridges to other organizations and groups to help the whole family system. What about teenage girls? What about younger boys and girls? What about elders? And hey, even adults need support. The long term vision of TPI is to create partnerships so that all can be recognized, celebrated and blessed through their life transitions.



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Journey to Manhood is expanding too. We've had a JourneyMan Group (JGroup) meeting at Cameron Church since we started. The congregation of Cameron Church has been gracious by providing us a space to serve teenage boys and we're very thankful for it. Recently we have entered into a new partnership with Mile Hi Church. Starting after the next RPAW in August of this year, we'll be offering a second JGroup there. The two JGroups will meet on the same nights. We will share OUTs – meetings that take place out on the town for laser tag or indoor rock climbing – and have separate INs – meetings where we circle up and offer support for, celebration of, or opportunities to process, what's going on in the JMen's lives.

TPI will continue to have a cooperative relationship with Boys to Men and its network of centers around the world. For each Rites of Passages Adventure Weekend (RPAW), we draw upon leaders and JMen from other centers to bring their wisdom to us. We call them visiting kings. They share their knowledge with our community and we send them back with the same from ours. And we have been able to send our leaders and JMen to other centers for their initiation weekends. A major goal of J2M is to provide lots of cross-pollination between the various groups doing similar work.

The most primal reason for the change can be expressed by William Ernest Henley in his poem *Invictus*, which ends with this bold statement:

I am the master of my fate:

I am the captain of my soul.

From now on all aspects of TPI and J2M will be run by men that live in this community; men that are your sons, fathers, brothers, uncles and grandfathers; men that know, love and respect the wives, daughters, sisters, aunts and grandmothers. These men have heard firsthand the expressions of the boys, JMen, mentors and families of our tribe. These men will continue to work hard to assure that the whole community is well served.



Community Events

Saturday, April 30th 8am-TBD

Mentoring Teenage Fire workshop @ Mile Hi Church: The what/why/who/how of J2M. Plus a mythopoetic experiential process for the audience to participate with that reveals how J2M works. All interested adults are invited.

Sunday, July 17th 2:30pm-4:30pm

Men's Ministry Presentation: *The Quadrants of Service* @ Mile Hi Church: a workshop on service to the community featuring a mythopoetic emotional process used in the J2M program. Discover the relationship between your purpose and the health of the community. All interested men are invited.

Thursday, August 25th 7pm-8:30pm

RPAW9 Honoring and Blessing Ceremony @ TBD location: Celebrate the new JMen and honor the service of the staff. All are invited!



Trainings for Mentors

Saturday, June 11th 8am-5pm

Reclaiming Your Teenage Fire training @ Cameron Church: The initial mentor training for J2M. Discover the hidden power of your teenage past and use it to fuel your present mission. All interested men are invited.

Saturday, June 25th 8am-5pm

Working in the Ring of Teenage Fire training @ Cameron Church: Experience the major processes that the JMen go through during our year-long program in a one-day format. JGroup leadership training material included. All interested men are invited.



Open JGroups

Tuesday, May 10th, June 21st, and July 26th, 6:30-8:30pm

Open JGroup – Laser Tag @ Laser Quest: Any man or boy can join this JGroup to play laser tag and see J2M mentoring style in action. Parents are invited to meet the mentors and ask questions about the program or pick up application forms for the RPAW and other and trainings.

For more information or to register for events, please see the TPI website (www.thresholdpassages.org) or contact the TPI Board 303-889-2800, tpi_board@thresholdpassages.org



Featured Mentor

Cody Fales

By Collin Irish



At fourteen years old, Cody Fales decided to attend TPI’s Rites of Passage Adventure Weekend (RPAW) at the very last minute. Teenage energy is like that sometimes and running an organization for teenage boys means continuous reminders of this dynamic. Cody holds the record for the least amount of time between the initial call and the start of the weekend. It was Thursday afternoon when I fielded his call on my way to the airport to pick up out-of-town staff. Only a couple of hours later the communications window closed when my passengers and I entered the mountains on the way to the camp and left effective cell phone range.

“It’s pretty late in the game,” I said to Cody’s step-mom Rose. “I’ve got the forms filled out,” she assured me. This was back before we had the forms available on our website, so I’m not sure how she got them. “Well, it takes more than just forms to attend. I need to talk to Cody.” “He’s right here,” she said and handed the phone over. So I went into my spiel for a ‘boy call’ as we call it. This isn’t summer camp, we don’t take boys that are sent by their parents to be fixed, you have to want it for yourself, etc. He waited until I was done and then said, “I want to go. This is what I’ve been looking for.” That was pretty clear and he was at the drop off location the next day ready to face the unknown.

Cody will be nineteen years old this summer. He went through that RPAW in 2006 and has staffed four since then. He regularly attends JourneyMen Groups (JGroups), our ongoing group mentoring program. He finished his journey to manhood last year on his eighteenth birthday. Shortly after we recognized him as an adult and he began his journey *through* manhood. He immediately turned in his background check form to become a mentor in our circle.

Cody has been a part of TPI for a long time. “He’s really fun to watch,” says Mike Oliveira, one of our JGroup Coordinators. “Sometimes he steps up and runs parts of the JGroup. He really gets it.” “One time at a Honoring and Blessing ceremony (the celebration after the RPAW),” says Paul Belden, Board member and storyteller, “he gave to the whole audience, in his own words, one of the most powerful and concise descriptions of the four masculine archetypes I’ve ever heard...and without any forewarning that he would be asked to do it. It was pretty cool.”

“I may put on a happy-go-lucky face sometimes,” says Cody with his familiar smirk, “but a lot of the time I’m dealing with some really gnarly anger. Seems like that’s all I could feel back then,” he goes on, describing his teenage years before the RPAW. “My mom left when I was two and I lost my dad when I was twelve.” By the time Rose brought him to Colorado from Arizona, Cody could only be in two modes: angry and withdrawn. He was getting into trouble in school and about to drop out. “Then I did the RPAW and started going to the JGroups. It was so different than the rest of my life. I could be really pissed and the men would say, ‘you have a powerful connection to the Warrior.’ No matter how mad I was, the men didn’t try to get in my face to fix it.”

The angry boy has become a man who knows why he feels angry and how to manage it. Over the years of JGroups he has explored other feelings too. He can access his sadness, fear and joy. “I really like the Whole Man -- getting in the center of the quadrants and having a piece of all of them. That is sweet.” Cody smiles thinking about it. It’s a genuine smile.



Rites of Passage Adventure Weekend (RPAW)

Thursday, August 18th through Sunday 21st

The annual *Rites of Passage Adventure Weekend* @ Buffalo Creek, CO: Boys are initiated onto their path to become the man they want to be. Mentors (with current background checks) and JMen (who meet requirements) invited to staff. All interested boys invited to participate. Boys arrive on site on Friday, **August 19th** and go thru Sunday, **August 21st**.



JGroups

Every other Tuesday night from 6:30-8:30pm starting August 30th

Page 1 JGroups continue after RPAW9 in two locations: Cameron Church and Mile Hi Church. Mentors (with background checks) and all new and returning JMen are invited.





Our Partners

Cameron United Methodist Church – hosts JGroups and other TPI events – Rev. Jessica Rooks, 303-777-7638, www.cameronchurch.org

Mile Hi Church – hosts JGroups and other TPI events – Rev. Barry Ebert, 303-237-8851, www.milehichurch.org

Long Scraggy Mountain Ranch – hosts annual RPAW – John Cloutier, 303-838-7770, www.longscraggy.org

Living Arts Foundation – coaching and family counseling – Tom Daly and Jude Blitz, 303-530-1896, www.livingartsfoundation.com

Men’s Leadership Alliance – programs for men and women – Jason Geoffrion, 303-444-9022, www.mensleadershipalliance.org

Women In Power – empowerment training for women – Becky Schupbach, 502-458-0705, www.womeninpowerprogram.com

Boys to Men Mentoring Network – mentoring for teenage boys across the world – Craig McClain, 619-469-9599, www.boystomen.org

Our Sponsors

Coy Theobalt – counseling, coaching, mentoring – 303-562-5122, ctheobalt@gmail.com

David Zarou, D.O. – osteopathic integrative medicine – 303-350-7990, www.oimcare.com/drzarou

Jason Seidel, Psy.D – feedback-informed psychotherapy – 303-547-3700, www.TheColoradoCenter.com

Mitch Paioff, MBA, CMA – multi-dimensional budgeting and forecasting models – 303-807-6663, www.mitchpaioff.com



Note: contact the TPI Board to become a Partner or Sponsor – 303-889-2800, tpi_board@thresholdpassages.org



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Program Staff

- Mike Oliveira, JGroup and Training Coordinator
- Paul Belden, JGroup Coordinator
- Collin Irish, RPAW Coordinator

Threshold Passages, Inc. (TPI) is a 501c3 registered non-profit that provides community services including the Journey to Manhood (J2M) mentoring program for teenage boys. TPI charges fees for certain events, but we do not turn away anyone because of lack of ability to pay. Sponsorship funds are available for qualified applicants. Everyone who works for TPI is a volunteer and we depend upon donations to continue to operate and provide services to any who want them. Please see the TPI website, www.thresholdpassages.org/Donate.php, for how to donate using Paypal or send a check or money order to:

Threshold Passages, Inc. P.O. Box 270895 Littleton, CO 80127

