

KEYNOTE

speakers



Byron Embry

(All three locations) Growing up in Richmond Kentucky did not come easy for Byron Embry. The product of a single parent home, his mother Judy did her very best to provide for her two young children. However, her best proved not to be enough as finances proved to be a thorn in the side of the Embry family. After being evicted from every apartment they ever lived in, the family was forced to live with Byron's grandmother in a tiny one bedroom apartment where he slept on the floor next to the bathroom. With no male role model, Byron struggled with his identity as he grew into manhood. At risk of being caught in the vicious cycle of drugs and gang violence, Byron knew he had to work his way out of the system somehow. As it turned out, his high power 96 mph fastball did the trick.



Eddie Slowikowski

(All three locations) Eddie's story has always been about taking the lead and setting the pace. Through his years as a world-class runner and now as an internationally known Speaker/Trainer, you can count on Eddie to be out in front. Throughout all the accomplishments and medals, Eddie sought to enrich his life with service and empowerment for himself and others. Whether it was a month-long service projects in Central America or helping the homeless in the city of Chicago, Eddie widened his world view beyond the life of sports. Eddie's elite experience, dynamic style and interactive programs make for a fun and informative ride.



Philippe Cousteau

(St. Louis, MO only) Philippe Cousteau is the son of Jan and Philippe Cousteau Sr., and the grandson of Captain Jacques-Yves Cousteau. As a member of the legendary family, Philippe is continuing the work of his father through EarthEcho International, the non-profit organization he founded with his sister and mother and of which he serves as CEO. Philippe's travels have taken him diving, rock climbing, trekking, and snowboarding around the world. From expeditions in the highlands of Papua New Guinea to war-torn Sarajevo, where he provided humanitarian aid, he has learned that exploring the connections between humans and the environment are as important as exploring nature itself.



Shanna Decker

(Albuquerque, NM and Charlotte, NC) Shanna Decker, a 19 year old cancer survivor and amputee, has a remarkable story to share with you. At the age of seven, her life changed forever when she was diagnosed with Osteogenic Sarcoma, a type of bone cancer. This event proved to be one of the most challenging events in her life, but also shaped her future. The chemotherapy treatments for her cancer dictated that she be hospitalized for the majority of a year. In addition to her treatments, she was faced with a second obstacle; doctors would have to amputate her leg. She decided to take the challenge presented to her and somehow turn it into a positive experience. Since surviving cancer eleven years ago, she has had the privilege of mentoring, supporting, and making more than 700 personal visits to cancer patients and amputees across the nation and around the world. She comes to you as a seven-time national award winner for her volunteer accomplishments.



Austin Dorrell

(Albuquerque, NM and Charlotte, NC) Austin has worked to raise awareness and funds for diabetes research since the age of five as a youth ambassador and spokesperson for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). He has traveled the country speaking in front of crowds and recorded a CD called "A Mother's Wish" to raise money for diabetes research. His rock band also regularly performs at JDRF functions. When he's not working to find a cure for diabetes, he's busy being a top student and playing golf, as well as singing, playing guitar and acting on stage. His maturity, willingness to help change the world, charisma and gift of gab combine to make Austin a well-rounded, interesting young man on the path to a bright future. Austin will discuss his passions, advice to people who want to get involved, struggles as a 'businessperson' and vision for the future.