

Texas Leadership Forum

Program Overview for Students, Parents and School Officials

SPONSOR: The Texas Leadership Forum (TLF) is a program of the Today Foundation, a 501(c)(3)

PURPOSE: The Texas Leadership Forum will seek to foster civic involvement, leadership and character building in high school students while educating them about government and public policy.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: TLF Board members consist of community leaders chosen by the Today Foundation. The directors are Martha Rocha, DCI Group, LLC; Christine Ortega, Southwest Airlines; Cesar Moncada, Director, External Affairs Verizon Communications Inc.; Chris Langmayer, Former Chairman, Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Mark Shank. KL Gates; Carol Clyde, Director, Leadership and Community Involvement, Southern Methodist University; Danny Smith, Public Affairs Director, UPS; Edwin Flores, Trustee District 1, Dallas Independent School District; Erin Patton, President, The Mastermind Group; Steve Gonzales; Gary Griffith, President, Today Foundation; Congressman Pete Sessions, Honorary Chairman

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: The director of the TLF will be a teacher or person in the education field who will be selected by the Today Foundation. The program director for 2008 – 09 is Deborah Horres.

PARTICIPANTS: Participants will be U.S. citizens who have completed their junior year in high school and attend school in North Texas.

SELECTION PROCESS: A girl and boy will be chosen from each participating North Texas high school based on academic performance, community involvement and leadership ability. Applications will include a resume, three one-page essays and a letter of recommendation by a teacher, principal, counselor or community leader. Final selection made by the TLF Board of Directors. Students must pass background checks prior to selection.

Class of 2008 – 09: Sonia Mohammad, Benicio Ramalho, Conrad HS; Irene Alvarez, Irving HS; Jillian Attan, Irving HS; Keenan Webster, Irving HS; Angelica Alvear, Molina HS; Arlene Beltran, Molina HS; Ruben Moreno, Molina HS; Desiree Rios, Molina HS; Eidi Lule, Sunset HS; Margie Mijares, Sunset HS; Yanela Montoya, Sunset HS; Eric Saucedo, Sunset HS

EXPECTATIONS: TLF participants will be required to.

- Attend TLF events including four local meetings and the Washington, D.C. conference.
- Complete all assignments.
- Be respectful representatives of their school and community.
- Report to their school in September 2009 on what they learned from the TLF experience.

MEETINGS: Meetings will be held on Sunday afternoons up to four times a school year at various locations sponsored by hosts. Events will be opportunities for students to meet and interact with local professionals, business men and women, elected officials and community leaders.

WASHINGTON, D.C. VISIT: Participants will attend a one-week conference in Washington, D.C. where they will take part in substantive meetings, briefings, and presentations. They will attend committee hearings, sessions of Congress and visit offices on the Hill. The goal is to provide broad exposure to the inner-workings of government and life in the nation's capital.

FUNDING:

- **Local Events:** Meetings will be sponsored by area businesses and local colleges/universities, so there is no cost to the students.

- **Washington, D.C. Visit:** The estimated cost per student for the D.C. trip is \$2500 and will be funded entirely by corporate and community sponsors. There will be no cost to the students.