

Texas Leadership Forum
Program Overview for Students, Parents and School Officials
Class of 2007 - 2008

SPONSOR: The Texas Leadership Forum (TLF) is a program of the Today Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization located at 3131 McKinney Ave, Suite 720, Dallas, TX 75204, Phone 214 739-1900

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: The honorary chairman of the TLF Board, chosen by the Today Foundation, is Congressman Pete Sessions. TLF Board members consist of 11 community leaders chosen by the Today Foundation and the honorary chairman of the TLF Board.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR & COORDINATOR: The director and coordinator of the TLF will be a teacher or person in the education field who will be selected by the Today Foundation.

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, two 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.

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 2008 on what they learned from the TLF experience.

MEETINGS: Meetings will be held 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.

ASSIGNMENTS: Students will be required to complete assignments based on current events prior to each meeting. These assignments will correspond with the topic of the following meeting.

FUNDING:

- **Local Events:** Meetings will be sponsored by area businesses, foundation donors, colleges/universities, etc. so there is no cost to the students.
- **Washington, D.C. Visit:** The estimated cost per student for the D.C. trip is \$2000 and will be funded entirely by corporate and community sponsors. There will be no cost to the students.

TIMELINE for 2007 -08:

- September 4 - Applications available at selected high schools
- September 28 – Application packets are to be turned into the school by noon. No extensions.
- October 19 – Participants notified of their selection
- July - Trip to Washington, D.C. for conference on Capitol Hill