

Texas Leadership Forum
Program Overview for Students, Parents and School Officials
Class of 2017-18

SPONSOR: The Texas Leadership Forum (TLF) is a program of the Today Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization located at 8150 North Central Expressway, Suite 1900, Dallas, TX 75206, Phone 214-528-5904.

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 fourteen community leaders chosen by the Today Foundation and the honorary chairman of the TLF Board.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: The director of the TLF will be Debbie Horres.

PARTICIPANTS: Participants will be U.S. citizens or students who are in the United States legally who have completed their junior year in high school and attend a public school in North Texas.

SELECTION PROCESS: A girl and boy will be chosen from each participating North Texas public 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. Students must pass background checks prior to selection.

EXPECTATIONS: TLF participants will be required to.

- Attend all TLF events including local meetings and the American Leaders Institute, a conference in Washington, DC.
- Complete all assignments.
- Be respectful representatives of their school and community.
- Report to their school in September 2017 on what they learned from the TLF experience.

MEETINGS: Meetings will be held on Sunday afternoons up to nine 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.

AMERICAN LEADERS INSTITUTE: 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.
- **American Leaders Institute:** 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.

TIMELINE for 2017 -18:

- February 12, 2017 – Applications available at selected high schools
- March 23, 2017 – Application packets are to be turned into the school by noon. No extensions.
- May 1, 2017 – Participants notified of their selection
- June/July, 2018 – American Leaders Institute conference in Washington, D.C.