



Texas TSA Winter Newsletter 2011

Happy New Year!

We hope you are having a great beginning to your new year! We have information listed below regarding important deadlines, conferences, student achievement awards, and advisor nominations. We hope that you can take a minute to read what applies to you and your school's chapter.

If anyone has any questions regarding the information below, don't hesitate to send the state leadership team an email with your question. If we do not have the answer, we will direct you to a person who will. All of our email addresses can be found at the bottom of the last page of this newsletter.

See you soon at the Texas TSA State Contest in May!



State Officer Applications

Have you ever been sitting during a general session wondering what it would be like to be up there on stage as a Texas TSA State Officer? Now is your chance! If you have been involved in TSA for a long time or you are simply passionate about what this organization has done for you, I strongly encourage you to consider becoming a state officer. From my experience on the leadership team and as state President, becoming involved as a state officer was one of the best decisions I've made in high school. By diving into leadership in my freshman year, I learned a lot about how I could help people reach their potential, and in those experiences, I pushed myself to be a better person, student, and leader. A past Texas TSA state president once told me to just "Be yourself. People will be able to see through you and if you are sincere, they will love the way you are... If you are truly yourself, then there is nothing for you to worry about." A national TSA President once told me, "Just work hard." So now I encourage you, the

potential leader of our great state to work hard and pursue sincerity in everything you do. The State Officer application is located on the [state website](#). Make sure to fill it out thoroughly and send it to Texas TSA no later than March 1st. Elections are in May at the state contest; good luck!

Advisor Nominations

It is that time of the year to think about the wonderful people that support you in TSA. Who could these people be? Your advisors! I know that my advisor puts many hours of work and effort into our chapter activities, just as your advisors do as well. One way to give back to your advisor is to plan activities for Advisor Appreciation Week (March 7th though 11th). A list of activities can be found at on the [national TSA website](#). Another way is to nominate your advisor for Advisor of the Year. To nominate your advisor for this award, you can find the application on the National TSA website under [student achievements](#). These applications are due by March 1st. Let's all show our advisors how grateful we are for all that they do!





Achievement Programs

Hey Texas TSA! After a long year of hard work and dedication to our organization, now is the time for you to be recognized for all of your efforts. TSA has several leadership recognition programs designed to honor dedicated members like you.

According to the National TSA website, "the TSA Technology Honor Society recognizes students for their efforts in academic studies, in leadership, and in service to their school and community." The goals of the Technology Honor Society are....

- *To motivate* TSA members to work to improve and maintain high academic marks.
- *To promote* the undertaking of leadership roles in school and community organizations.
- *To promote* participation in service activities that benefit a school or community.
- *To recognize* student concern for chapter, school, and community."

For a student to be eligible for the Technology Honor Society they must have attained a GPA of 3.0 or higher. The student must have held an office in TSA and at least one other organization. They must have placed in the top three at a State or National TSA conference. If this describes you, please check out the [application](#) on the National TSA website.

The TSA Achievement Program is made up of three different levels: bronze, silver, and gold. Each level requires the member to complete a resume of required activities and you must earn 100 points for each level of achievement. "National TSA recommends working on the Achievement Program over a two-year period of time. The student strives to achieve the Bronze and Silver Awards in one school year, and the Gold Award during the following school year. This time frame is suggested in order to give the appropriate amount of time and effort to the projects/steps that are required to achieve each level and to maximize the learning experience." For the application for the Achievement Program, you can find it on the [Texas TSA website](#).

To find out more about these programs go to the [National TSA website](#). Please remember that the deadlines for these applications are March 1st and need to be mailed to Texas TSA. Good luck, I look forward to reading your name in Waco!

Texas TSA State Contest

Hey there Texas TSA, the time has come once again to start preparations for the 2011 Texas TSA State Contest! This year's conference will be held on May 5th through 7th in Waco, Texas. I am happy to say that this year's conference will also be returning to the Waco Convention Center after it's two-year renovation. More information about the Waco Convention Center can be found [here](#). Registration will be onsite at the contest, more information about the state contest can be found [here](#) on the Texas TSA website.



Along with the changes in where our contest will be held, there have also been many changes event-wise over the past summer. National TSA has changed some of the competitions that members can compete in, and merged similar events/changed events in the process. Some of these changes include the creation of Biotechnology Design (a hybrid between Medical Technology and Biotechnology Design) and Technical Sketching and Application. Other events merely had a name change such as Cyberspace Pursuit becoming Webmastering, and Imaging Technology changing to Photographic Technology. Advisors should have received the updated rulebook upon affiliating with National TSA this year, check out the rulebook for the updates or online at tsaweb.org.

Don't forget that the National Conference this year is here in Dallas, Texas. The conference will be hosted at the Gaylord Texan June 21st through 25th. If your chapter has not competed in a NQE before, I highly suggest that you try this year. This would be a great year to try to advance and place at nationals because of it's close proximity for everyone (i.e. within driving distance) rather than having to spend the money to fly a chapter and projects to another city.

We cannot wait to see everyone in Waco back in the Waco Convention Center for this year's contest, good luck to all the competitors!



TSA Scholarships

Did you know that being a member of Texas TSA qualifies you to apply for scholarships from Texas TSA? These scholarships are great opportunities to help you with your future in college, and every small bit helps. All you need to do is visit the Texas TSA website and look under the Scholarships tab. This page has all the information you need to apply for scholarships that are offered by Texas TSA.

The scholarships available are open to current TSA members who will be graduating seniors. The following two scholarships will be given in memory of

founders of Texas TSA, one in memory of W.A. Mayfield, and one in memory of Al Seher.

- A \$2,000 scholarship will be given to a student planning to be a technology education teacher.
- A \$2,000 scholarship will be given to a student planning to be a teacher.
- In addition, five \$1,500 scholarships will be given to TSA students planning to go into any technology field.

If you are interested in applying for a scholarship, you must submit a complete application to the following:

Texas TSA
c/o Karen Ripperger
6413 Hinsdale Dr, Amarillo, TX 79109

Applications must be submitted **by March 1st** to be considered for the scholarships. Questions regarding the scholarship application process should be directed to, Bud Worley, State Advisor at bud@carthageisd.org or 903-693-2552 Ext. 273.

Statewide Leadership

"A Legacy of Leaders" that was this past year's Statewide Leadership Conference theme. To go along with the theme, attendants were split into six groups that represented the six different flags that Texas has served under. The first night our keynote speaker Eric Dixon decided to use the first general session to host a giant icebreaker activity. After the icebreakers, students spent time getting to know each other further near the campfire while munching on smores under the stars. The following morning Eric gave his speech on the qualities of a leader, and inspired everyone in attendance to be their best. For the rest of that day, the students split into their respective countries and participated in different breakout sessions. These sessions covered National Qualifying Events (NQE), teamwork, parliamentary procedure, public speaking skills, and American Cancer Society (ACS). That evening, two exciting events went on

simultaneously: the Armada Boat Race and BINGO night. BINGO was a great success, and it served as a brilliant way to raise funds for ACS. The majority of the prizes for BINGO were generously donated for the cause. The best prizes were the Harry Potter basket, knife set, and 300-piece poker set. That night we raised approximately \$860 for ACS. This year's conference was a blast, mostly because of everyone's great attitudes and cooperation. Next year's conference will be better than ever.



Want to contact the Leadership Team?

With all of the information covered in this newsletter, there are bound to be a couple of questions to arise. The State Leadership Team would like to offer some help with these questions, no matter what topic or if you're students or yourself have a question. If we do not exactly know your answer, we will direct you to the best person possible. Please do not hesitate to contact us. Email addresses are listed with the name on top of the email address

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State Officers

Leadership