



2021 TEEN LEADERSHIP WACO APPLICATION

A Program of the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce

CONTACT US

The Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce

Rachel Martinez

Director of Leadership Development

101 S. Third Street, Waco TX 76701

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(254) 757-5633

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Please complete and submit this entire application form. Your file will be considered complete when all of the items in the application checklist below are received at the Chamber office:

- Completed application form, including **typed responses** to Reflection Questions A, B, and C
- School Transcript (unofficial)
- Two** letters of recommendation mailed directly to Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce Teen Leadership Waco (TLW). It is the applicants' responsibility to ensure that the letters have been received by the Chamber. No more than one of these letters should come from a school teacher, counselor or advisor.
- Headshot or quality photograph that can be used for marketing purposes
- \$25 non-refundable application fee (check or money order made out to Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce)

Please do not submit any additional letters of recommendation or supplemental application materials other than those specifically requested in the application checklist.

Please be aware that prior to final selections TLW will make every effort to communicate with the appropriate representatives from each school confirming the eligibility of the applicant's status in order to participate in the program. Since the program depends on the school's participation and approval from the district with regard to absences, we need concurrence with school administration.

We strongly recommend that you keep a copy of your application and all submitted materials.

2021 TENTATIVE PROGRAM DATES

The success of the TLW Program depends upon commitment to the program's entire schedule from each participant. Over the year-long program period, approximately 12 dates are scheduled. Program hours will be from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Dates and times are subject to change. A final calendar will be given at the orientation.

2021 Teen Leadership Waco Tentative Program Calendar:

PARENT ORIENTATION
TLW CLASS OF 2020 GRADUATION
PROGRAM 1 – OPENING RETREAT
PROGRAM 2 - CITY/COUNTY DAY
PROGRAM 3 - HEALTHCARE DAY
PROGRAM 4 – COMMUNITY DAY
SUMMER BREAK
PROGRAM 5 - BUSINESS DAY
PROGRAM 6 - DIVERSITY DAY
PROGRAM 7 - EDUCATION DAY
PROGRAM 8 - JUDICIAL DAY
GRADUATION PRACTICE
GRADUATION CELEBRATION

Thursday, Jan. 7 @ 6 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 24 @ 2 to 4 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 13 @ 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday, March 1 @ 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Monday, April 12 @ 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Monday, May 10 @ 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Class Community Project TBD
Monday, Aug. 9 @ 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Monday, Sept.13 @ 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 4 @ 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 8 @ 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022 @ 2 to 3 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 @ 2 to 4 p.m.

SELECTION PROCESS

Application Deadline

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. **The final DEADLINE for the 2021 class will be Monday, December 7, 2020.** If space is available, applications received after the priority deadlines may be considered. Please call Rachel Martinez at 254-757-5633 or David Brennan at 254-744-8516 for more information.

Selection

Greater Waco Chamber volunteers representing diverse sectors of the community will review completed applications. Volunteers will score applications and the top 25 applicants will be selected. Please note that readers give the most weight to the Reflection Questions so spend adequate time on them.

GREATER WACO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OUTREACH AND RECRUITMENT

To assist the chamber in improving its program recruitment, please state how you learned about the TLW Program. Please be as *specific* as possible.

Counselor: _____

Website: _____

TLW Alumni: _____

Teacher: _____

Publication: _____

Other: _____

Posters: _____

Have you previously applied to any TLW program? Yes No If yes, when? _____

TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID

Tuition

Since the 2021 TLW class will be “virtual” until it is deemed safe by the schools and city officials to meet in person a discounted tuition will be offered. The discounted tuition for the TLW Program is \$425.00. The \$25.00 application fee will be credited to your tuition. \$100.00 of the tuition must be a sponsorship from a community business or community member that the student solicits. **\$200 of the \$400 tuition is due by the 2nd class on March 1st with the balance due by the 4th class on May 10th.** There are no refunds.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Please read requirements carefully:

1. Must be classified as a sophomore or junior in high school as of September 1st of the current year.
2. Participate in the Teen Leadership Retreat in February.
3. Participate in a Teen Leadership Waco sponsored community service event.
4. Attend a minimum of six monthly workshops; there are eight workshops in all. (Unexcused absences may result in termination from the program).

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Application must be typed. No handwritten applications will be accepted.

Last Name		First Name		Middle Name		T-Shirt Size			
Home Address									
City		State		Zip		Telephone		Best Email to contact you	
Parent/Guardian Name			Parent/Guardian Phone			Parent/Guardian Email			
Grade Level				Grade Average					
High School Attending				Counselor Name		Counselor Signature			
Counselor Email				Counselor Telephone					

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Please answer the following, required as part of your application. We recommend that you spend the majority of your time on these answers. The selection committee weighs these answers heavily when reviewing your application. Please provide thoughtful and insightful answers.

- A. About You: answer the following questions (each answer should be 2-5 sentences)
1. Leadership: Provide information about yourself as a student – Academic, Athletic, School/Class Leadership Positions (extra-curricular school activities, interests, awards, and special accomplishments).
 2. Service: List your volunteer experience and/or employment history. Also, list any other community involvement, community recognition or special accomplishments.
 3. Using a few phrases or adjectives, describe yourself.
- B. Leadership: answer the following questions (each answer should be 2-5 sentences)
1. What are the five most important characteristics of a leader?
 2. What part of being a leader comes most naturally to you and what part is most challenging for you?
 3. What would you like to accomplish by the time you retire?
 4. Who is someone that you admire and why do you admire him/her?

C. Essay: Please choose 2 of the following topics and write an essay on each (500 words or less). Clearly and fully identify your position(s), use clear examples, explain your reasoning.

1. Are school uniforms beneficial?
2. Are we too dependent on our computers?
3. Is homework helpful or harmful?
4. Is the cost of college too much?
5. Should schools require a foreign language or physical education?
6. Does technology make us more alone?
7. What should be done to stop cyber-bullying?
8. How should we prevent future mass shootings?
9. Do leaders have moral obligations?
10. What can older people learn from your generation?
11. What has COVID-19 taught you about yourself, your community and the world we live in?

Please observe the following guidelines in preparing answers to the above questions:

- ◆ Your full name, page number on each page.
- ◆ Begin each essay on a separate piece of paper.
- ◆ Restate the essay question at the beginning of each essay.
- ◆ Please use paper clips instead of staples in assembling your application.

REFERENCES

Two letters of reference are required as a part of your application. Please forward the reference forms to individuals familiar with your achievements and leadership abilities. **It is the applicant's responsibility to assure reference letters are received.** Applications will not be considered unless they are complete with two letters of reference.

No more than one of these letters should come from a school teacher, counselor or advisor.

DECLARATION ON APPLYING

In submitting this application, I affirm that:

- I have reviewed the entire application and that, to the best of my belief and knowledge, the information I have given is true and accurate.
- My parents and school support my time commitment to this program, including full attendance throughout the entire program schedule.
- Except for circumstances beyond my control, if selected, I will complete the program in its entirety.
- The Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce may dismiss me from the program if my performance proves unsatisfactory due to lack of interest or ability, unsatisfactory attendance, progress or conduct, violation of confidences shared during the program, or for any reason deemed by the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce to be detrimental to the overall program.

Name of Applicant (please print)

Name of Parent/Guardian (please print)

Signature of Applicant

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Please deliver to:

The Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce
Rachel Martinez
101 S. Third Street, Waco TX 76701
(254) 757-5633

Additional TLW Contact:

David Brennan
254-744-8516

TEEN LEADERSHIP WACO PROGRAM

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APPLICANT RECOMMENDATION FORM

Name of Applicant _____ School Student Attends _____
Last Name First Name

Instructions to the Applicant: The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 opens many student records for the student's inspection. The law also permits the student to sign a waiver relinquishing the right to inspect letters of recommendation. *If you sign this form, you relinquish your right to view your letter of recommendation.* Upon receipt of this form, the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce may contact the reference by telephone for verification purposes.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

Name of Reference _____
Last Name First Name Middle Name

Instructions to Reference: The Teen Leadership Waco (TLW) Program is a leadership development program for high school sophomores and juniors throughout McLennan County who want to contribute to their communities through firsthand exposure, experience, and action.

Thank you for writing a recommendation letter for the TLW Program applicant named above. We seek insight into the applicant's commitment to and concern for their school and community and her/his desire to be an effective part of that community. Your candid opinion of the applicant's character, intelligence, attitude and leadership qualities are appreciated.

To be successful in the program, applicants must possess the following:

- ◆ strong personal initiative and motivation
- ◆ desire to make an active contribution to their school and community
- ◆ evidence of leadership experience or potential, and meaningful involvement in school or community
- ◆ ability to work well independently and within a diverse group
- ◆ intellectual curiosity

Please answer the following questions on your professional letterhead (if appropriate) and include your daytime telephone number. **Letters of recommendation are due to the Waco Chamber by Monday, December 7, 2020.**

1. How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity?
2. What are the applicant's strongest points? Areas for improvement?
3. How well do you think the applicant meets the requirements cited above? Please cite specific examples.

Please mail this form along with your letter of recommendations to:

Rachel Martinez
Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce
101 S. Third Street, Waco TX 76701
(254) 757-5633