

# Leaders of Tomorrow (The LOT Crew)

“Preparing the Next Generation for Leadership”

The Leaders of Tomorrow program, the LOT Crew, is a leadership development initiative collaboratively hosted by the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce, Stephen F. Austin State University, the City of Nacogdoches, and the nine independent school districts within Nacogdoches County. The initiative seeks to develop leadership skills in grade eight students selected to represent their schools. Three representatives from each of the eight county schools, four representatives from each of the two city middle schools, and two representatives from private schools and/or home schooled comprise the LOT Crew membership of 34 students.

During the school year, the LOT Crew comes together nearly every month to explore a particular aspect of leadership and/or community/city/county services. SFA students who are members of the university's leadership honor society, Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK), may be part of the meetings and may serve as mentors. ODK recognizes top undergraduate students who have achieved in one of the five areas at SFA: student activities and organizations, athletics, fine arts, student media, and government. LOT Crew members and ODK leaders begin their work in early September during a Saturday Orientation Retreat, continue their leadership development at monthly meetings, and complete the program with a graduation ceremony in mid-May.

The Education Committee of the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce is responsible for the oversight of this program. Members of the Education Committee, members of the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce board of directors, administrators at Stephen F. Austin State University, members of Nacogdoches City/County government, and public school personnel coordinate the LOT Crew schedule and events.

Participation as a LOT Crew member is an honor. LOT Crew members represent their schools and interact with city/county leaders, business owners, institutional personnel, and citizens. The LOT Crew schedule is coordinated with the school district personnel who allow for excused absences for LOT Crew members of the designated days of activities. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian, however, to provide transportation to and from designated drop points for each of the LOT Crew scheduled events. At times, parents/guardians arrange car pools for transportation to and from the designated drop points. Generally, LOT Crew events begin at 8:30 AM and are completed by 2:30 PM; this allows for a “school-like” schedule.

Application forms and Reference forms are made available to middle school counselors who distribute the forms to eligible grade seven students before the school year is over. Completed Applications forms and Reference forms are collected by the middle school counselor or are submitted directly to the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce on or before the due date.

## Eligibility

To be eligible for consideration in serving as a LOT Crew member, students must:

- be a rising grade eight student in good standing, enrolled in one of the nine Nacogdoches County ISDs, in a Nacogdoches County private school, or is a registered Nacogdoches County home schooled student

NOTE: To be in “good standing”, the applicant should:

- be academically able; this does NOT mean that the applicant must have a high GPA, but it DOES mean that the applicant would be able to successfully manage

her/his academic work while missing a day of school scheduled as a LOT Crew activity nearly every month

- be self-disciplined and demonstrate self-control; this does NOT mean that the applicant must be compliant at ALL times, but it DOES mean that the applicant must be respectful, be cooperative, be willing to follow directions, and be willing to represent her/his school with dignity
  - show potential as a leader; this does NOT mean that the applicant is already a leader within the school or the community, but it DOES mean that the applicant has at least some of the qualities of a leader (i.e., curiosity; openness to new ideas; willingness to mix with unfamiliar people; willingness to speak publically [at least in a small group, if not in a larger group]; willingness to listen to others; willingness to entertain multiple ways to solve a problem; respectful of differences; show kindness to others; willingness to share; willingness to meet deadlines/due dates/time constraints)
- complete and submit a LOT Crew Application form on or before the due date; and
  - ask a qualified adult to complete and submit a LOT Crew Reference form on or before the due date.

### Selection Process

Following the due date, the Education Committee coordinates the review of the applications and references. Using a scoring guide, members of the selection committee review and score each application. Three representatives from each of the eight county schools and four representatives from each of the two city middle schools are selected based on the scoring guide. A letter of invitation to participate in the Leaders of Tomorrow program is sent to each of the 34 selected representatives, using the home address provided on the Application form. The student and family must accept the invitation by returning completed documents enclosed with the invitation. Should an invited participant decline the opportunity to participate, the next student in the ranking from the particular independent school district is then invited to participate.

### Orientation

An orientation meeting is held in August prior to the beginning of the school year or near the beginning of the school year. Participants and family members are required to attend and to provide informational forms and consent forms. An overview of the program and the schedule of LOT Crew meetings are provided. Questions, concerns, or issues are also addressed.

### For Additional Information

Please contact the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce  
[chamber@nactx.com](mailto:chamber@nactx.com)  
936-560-5533

## **Application and Reference Form due date: 22 April 2016**

Please return the completed application to the student's school counselor, mail it to the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce, Attn: Barbara Holl, 2516 North Street, Nacogdoches, Texas 75965, or email it to [chamber@nactx.com](mailto:chamber@nactx.com) .