

Leaders of Tomorrow (The LOT Crew)

“Preparing the Next Generation for Leadership”

The Leaders of Tomorrow program, the LOT Crew, is 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 purpose of LOT Crew is two-fold: to develop leadership skills in grade eight students selected to represent their schools and provide opportunities for these students to explore different aspects of community/city/county services. 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 up to 34 students.

The students begin in September with a Saturday LOT Crew Retreat, meet once a month throughout the school year for off-campus community exploration and leadership development, and complete the program with a graduation ceremony in mid-May.

The Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce Education Committee is responsible for the oversight of this program. Members of the 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 community leaders. The LOT Crew schedule is coordinated with the school district personnel who allow for excused absences for days of program activities. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian, however, to provide transportation to and from designated drop points for each of the scheduled events. At times, parents/guardians may arrange carpools as needed. Generally, LOT Crew events begin at 8:30 AM and are completed by 2:30 PM; this allows for a “school-like” schedule.

Completed applications 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 schoolwork for the missed day.
- 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

Education Committee members review and score each application based on a scoring guide. A letter of invitation to participate is sent to each of the 34 selected student's home address. 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 that particular 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 Barbara Holl at the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce
chamber@nactx.com 936-560-5533

Application and Reference Form due date: May 28, 2021

Please return the completed application to the student's school counselor, drop off at the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce, Attn: Barbara Holl, 2516 North Street, Nacogdoches, Texas 75965, or email it to chamber@nactx.com.