



FUNDRAISING

If you need financial assistance with your Lone Star Leadership Academy application fee, you may want to explore the following funding sources.

SPONSORSHIPS

There are sponsors waiting for you to ask for support. Ask your school counselor or nominating teacher for ideas. If your counselor or teacher is willing to write a letter of endorsement, include copies of it with your letter. Such letters give strength and substance to your request. (*A sample request letter is provided on the back of this page.*)

As you seek sponsorship, keep in mind the following:

- Most people like to be asked for sponsorships. It shows you have enough faith in their generosity and sensitivity to risk asking them to sponsor you.
- Know what it is you are requesting. Visit our website, www.educationinaction.org, to learn about the program. If you or sponsors have questions, contact Education in Action.
- **Offer to make a presentation to your sponsor(s) about the information you learned while attending the program.**
- Show potential sponsors your respect for them and the time they are allowing you – make an appointment to meet with them, at their convenience. Be punctual and do not take more time than is necessary.
- When writing to potential sponsors double-check the spelling of their names and job titles.
- Always send a personal thank you note after a meeting even if you do not receive a sponsorship.
- Do not be discouraged if you don't receive a sponsorship from everyone you ask. People who do not sponsor you with financial aid may provide names of others who can help.

Education in Action suggests a three-part formula for corresponding with sponsors:

1. **An introductory letter** - The letter introduces you, the Lone Star Leadership Academy, and your needs. It is also a means for potential sponsors to help a young leader in a worthy pursuit. (*A template sponsorship request letter is located on the back of this page.*)
2. **A follow-up phone call to set an appointment**
3. **A thank you note**

Possible sponsors include:

Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, Kiwanis Clubs, Knights of Columbus, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion Posts, Chambers of Commerce, League of Women Voters, Business and Professional Women, local political organizations, church groups, local banks, PTAs, local businesses, law firms, your school district's Education Foundation, schools, and your school board.

This is not meant to be a comprehensive list. It should help you think of organizations in your area that are potential sponsors. If your sponsorship request activities have not produced enough money to allow you to participate, we may be able to suggest ways to redirect your efforts. You can reach our office at 817-562-4957.

GIFTS FROM FRIENDS AND FAMILY



If friends or family members are looking for gift ideas for your birthday, a holiday or just because, you may want to let them know that you would like a contribution toward your Lone Star Leadership Academy program application fee. Their donation will help you achieve your goal, and because Education in Action is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the amount may be tax-deductible for the person giving the gift.

PERSONAL FUNDRAISING WEBSITES

Crowdfunding websites such as GoFundMe can be a useful tool for getting the word out about your fundraising efforts, as well as for tracking and managing donations. More information is available at www.gofundme.com.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Texas Association for Gifted and Talented (TAGT)

TAGT offers scholarships of up to \$400 to identified gifted students who are currently participating in a gifted program and who want to enrich their learning experience during the summer months. Students can begin applying online in late January at www.txgifted.org.

Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) Essay Contest

TSHA teams with Education in Action to sponsor an essay contest called the "Lone Star Leader in History Award." One winner receives a full scholarship to the Lone Star Leadership Academy. Essays must be submitted to TSHA by March 1st. If the entrant is not currently a member of a Junior Historian chapter, he/she must submit an at-large membership form to TSHA by February 1st. Details are available at www.tshaonline.org.

More information about these and other scholarship opportunities is available at www.educationinaction.org.

SAMPLE SPONSOR REQUEST LETTER

Date

Sponsor's First and Last Name
Sponsor's Title
Sponsor's Business/Organization
Sponsor's Address

Dear Mr./Ms. Sponsor's Last Name,

My name is _____, and I am currently a/an (4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, or 8th) grader at _____ Elementary/Middle School. I am very active in school/community activities including _____. My overall grade average is _____. I have the opportunity to take part in the Lone Star Leadership Academy, a program for students demonstrating academic excellence and leadership ability.

As a participant in this weeklong program, I will join a delegation of other distinguished students and travel to the _____ (Dallas/Fort Worth, Austin/San Antonio, or Houston/Galveston) area. As a delegate I will develop leadership skills while learning about future career and internship opportunities, visiting historically, politically, and environmentally significant sites, and participating in a unique academic experience.

In order to participate in this unique, educational program I need to raise an application fee of _____ (see student application). This cost includes five nights lodging, all meals during the program, entrance fees, charter bus transportation during the program, one Facilitator (all educators) for every ten students, and all curriculum materials. I am asking you and others representing community organizations to help me with this cost. I am requesting a donation of _____ (dollar amount). Education in Action is a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit organization and donations may be tax-deductible.

Participation in the Lone Star Leadership Academy is an invaluable experience. I will come away with a deeper appreciation of basic democratic values, and through simulations and group discussions I will develop my leadership skills in order to become a more knowledgeable and involved citizen. I will gratefully share with your organization the knowledge I gain through my participation by conducting a presentation of my experience. I will represent our community with dignity and make your organization proud. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me. I would also be happy to meet with you at your convenience. Thank you in advance for any help you might be able to offer.

To learn more about the Lone Star Leadership Academy, please feel free to visit www.educationinaction.org to watch an informational video including interviews with past participants and their parents, educators, and state legislators. You may also contact Education in Action directly at 817-562-4957.

Sincerely,

Your Signature
Your First and Last Name
Contact Phone Number
Address