

Young to attend Lone Star Leadership Academy

By Kim Cox

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Johnny Young looks to up his leadership game.

The Paris Junior High School student will be attending the Lone Star Leadership Academy next week, with a trip to Houston and Galveston. Johnny is the son of Ashley Farrow and Kenneth Young and brother to Britney Young.

"I am the last person I expected to be nominated for it. I'm very honored and excited," he said.

He was nominated by his history teacher, Cleonne Drake, at Paris Junior High School.

"Jonathan was nominated due to his academic grades, his leadership skills at PJH, and how he interacts with other students," Drake said. "He always steps up not only to assist other students but staff also. He was active not only in school activities but in the community as well. He was president of our Builders Club this

year in which I'm school sponsor.

"I always nominate students and think carefully to ensure the ones nominated meet the criteria and know they will carry forward the leadership skills they learn at the academy. Jonathan is one of those students."

According to the Education in Action website, the Houston/Galveston camp will tour Galveston Bay on board the Seagull II with a marine biologist, visit mission control for the Apollo 11 trip to the moon at NASA's Johnson Space Center, interact with endangered plants and animals at Moody Gardens, visit the San Jacinto Monument, tour the Battleship Texas and walk through The Cockrell Butterfly Center.

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YOUNG

Paris Junior High School student selected for Lone State Leadership Academy

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The week ends with an overnight stay at the George Observatory, with stargazing through one of the largest public telescopes in the United States and working in teams to complete a simulated space mission.

To attend costs \$1,000, Johnny said, and he applied for and was granted a scholarship.

"After three months of

waiting, I got approved for a \$400 scholarship, and I was so excited," he said.

His mother said her son amazes her every day.

"He tried out for America's Got Talent," Farrow said.

"He volunteers his time. He's amazing at everything he does, and he wows me every day with how his mind works.

"Just watching him interact with his peers or the teachers, it's just like, 'wow, that's my son.'"

Lee Jane Walker, area director for Young Life/

WyldLife, said Johnny was a good fit for the leadership program.

"Johnny is this kid that has tons of energy and this joy for life," she said. "He doesn't meet a stranger. He's so good at including everyone.

"He's always the first one to help. He's this incredible young man that does really well with his peers. He does have built-in leader qualities that don't see in students his age very often. He's got this quirky uniqueness that he owns so well."