

The Voice of Texas Agriculture

They say everything's bigger in Texas. That's why we pledge to empower Texans—from farmers and ranchers to everyone in between—with a big voice. We're over 500,000 members strong.

For 83 years, we've done whatever it takes to get the attention of those at the top. That means you can turn to us for insight into a current policy or to enact local and statewide change. And because our organization is made up of members who cherish the Texas way of life as much as you do, you know we'll do right for you and by you.

Our mission is to be the Voice of Texas Agriculture.

Our vision is for all Texans to benefit from a prosperous agriculture that provides for a viable, long-term domestic source of food, fiber and fuel.

For additional information and an application, contact your local county Farm Bureau or Coleburn Davis at (254) 399-5037; cdavis@txfb.org

TEXASFARMBUREAU.ORG



YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

BUILDING TEXAS, FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW



The Farm Bureau philosophy is one that encompasses a belief in perseverance, self-reliance and service to others. These are not merely words to this organization of more than 500,000 member-families, but a way of life. The following excerpts from the organizational preamble will provide further insights into the Youth Leadership Conference sponsor—the Texas Farm Bureau.

"We believe that our faith in God and the democratic principles of free enterprise and human freedom upon which our nation was founded are responsible for its greatness. We believe in the right of all people to choose their own occupation free from compulsory unionism; to be rewarded in accordance with their productive contribution to society; to save, invest and spend their earnings as they choose; and to worship as their conscience dictates."

The Farm Bureau in Texas has always had a special interest in the development of youth. This marks the 53rd year that the state organization has sponsored the Youth Leadership Conference. Last year, more than \$118,000 in scholarships were awarded to qualified, deserving young people. Both the county and state Farm Bureaus dedicate substantial resources to help our youth.

The Farm Bureau is committed to assist young adults in achieving their dreams. Our communities, our state and our nation need qualified leaders and the Youth Leadership Conference is helping to develop them. We look forward to seeing you there!

Russell W. Boening
President
Texas Farm Bureau



This summer it will be 53 years ago that I attended the first-ever Texas Farm Bureau Youth Leadership Conference. I was more than just impressed with the message—supporting our constitutional form of government, the importance of our private competitive enterprise system, the love for country and strong expression of Christian principles. I decided then I was going to work for the Farm Bureau.

From the moment you arrive at Tarleton State University campus, you'll be taking part in an adventure that will enhance your leadership skills and goal-setting abilities. Your self-confidence will grow and you'll begin to view your problems as challenges. You will become keenly aware of our priceless freedoms and the blessings of our free enterprise system.

The opportunities you'll encounter at the Texas Farm Bureau Youth Leadership Conference will include hearing humorous and motivational speakers, and participating in energetic group activities and discussions. You will also enjoy a dance and the pleasure of making a multitude of new friends!

Don't forget the scholarship opportunities or the Washington, D.C. trip awarded in the Free Enterprise Speech Contest! Two more good reasons to attend!

It is considered an honor to attend the Texas Farm Bureau Youth Leadership Conference. I do hope that you will be able to join us!

Vernie Glasson
Executive Director
Texas Farm Bureau



VALUE-BASED LEADERSHIP

Texas youths can expect the best in life by holding themselves to the highest standards. Through our Youth Leadership Conference, we show you how to take an honest look at your ideas, attributes and abilities. And we encourage, inspire and applaud you along the way—to get you where you need to go.

FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS

A strong Texas demands strong guidance. That's why we emphasize patriotism, responsibility and leadership—keys to our proud past and essential to our future success.

We will help you understand the vital role of the U.S. Constitution, the rock solid foundation on which this country was built. We teach you how capitalism is the driving force behind Texas and America. We demonstrate why capitalism has succeeded while communism, socialism and fascism have failed.

We engage you in goal-setting activities to help you build confidence in yourself and your abilities. We help you move as far as your dreams can take you—to build a better Texas for today and tomorrow.

TRAVEL THE ROAD OF EXCELLENCE

Leadership requires true commitment. That's why we follow strict guidelines to ensure participants a quality learning experience.

- Students must be entering either the 11th or 12th grade in August 2016
- Students should be of good character with a desire to enhance their leadership abilities
- Students should be in top 30 percent of the class, scholastically
- Students who have attended a previous conference are not eligible unless selected to return as a junior counselor
- Students do not have to be a Farm Bureau member to attend, but must become one to be eligible to enter the Free Enterprise Speech Contest

WE'LL FOOT THE BILL AND GET YOU THERE, TOO

If selected, your county Farm Bureau provides you a full scholarship, including room and board, registration, meals, all conference materials and use of university facilities.

We provide you chartered bus transportation to and from Stephenville. A Texas Farm Bureau representative is present on each bus at all times.

June 13-17, 2016
Tarleton State University
Stephenville, Texas

GO THE EXTRA MILE

Free enterprise moves our lives. Education gives us the tools. That's why we offer you an additional opportunity to earn scholarships through our Free Enterprise Speech Contest. Open only to those attending the 2016 Youth Leadership Conference, contestants give five local speeches on free enterprise, which must be six minutes or less in length and verified by your county Farm Bureau. By doing so, you automatically become eligible for the district contest.

Thirteen district winners will compete during the Texas Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in San Antonio in December 2016.

REWARDS ARE SWEET

Students who attend the Youth Leadership Conference are taking the first step to exciting rewards and opportunities. Texas Farm Bureau will be offering a unique opportunity for advancement.

Every participant can enter the Free Enterprise Speech Contest in the fall of 2016. This contest will allow select students to earn scholarships to pay for college expenses. Each district winner will receive a \$1,500 scholarship and the opportunity to increase his or her scholarship at the state contest. Four finalists will each have their scholarships increased to \$2,500, a runner-up will have his or her scholarship increased to \$3,000 and the winner of the contest will receive a \$6,000 scholarship. In addition, the six finalists will receive an expense paid trip to Washington, D. C. during the summer of 2017.

Details about the Free Enterprise Speech Contest and the Washington, D.C. trip will be available during the conference.



F. Dominic Dottavio, President
Tarleton State University

Since 1994, Texas Farm Bureau has sponsored the Summer Agricultural Institute, a continuing education program for educators facilitated by Tarleton State University's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. And four years ago, Tarleton welcomed more than 300 high school juniors and seniors to our campus for the Texas Farm Bureau-sponsored Youth Leadership Conference. Tarleton is proud of its historic ties to agriculture in Texas and equally proud of ongoing partnerships with Texas Farm Bureau, a preeminent voice for agricultural interests in the state.

