

# 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 more than 80 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, contact your local county Farm Bureau or Mia Balko at (254) 399-5037; mbalko@txfb.org

**TEXASFARMBUREAU.ORG**



## YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

### BUILDING TEXAS, FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW



**“Don’t interfere with anything in the Constitution. That must be maintained, for it is the only safeguard of our liberties.”**

—Abraham Lincoln

Our founding fathers understood that freedom as expressed in the Constitution of the United States was the great foundation of the world's greatest experiment in freedom.

The Texas Farm Bureau Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) is a rare opportunity for young Texas leaders to immerse themselves for four days in the history, tradition and practical application of what makes America work. YLC is about America, her hopes for the future and why our freedom is still the last and best hope of the world.

There is no doubt that the American system of capitalism and free enterprise has produced more wealth and opportunity than any other in the history of the world. Yet today, many seem to have lost faith in these critical American principles.

At Texas Farm Bureau, we believe the system has failed to promote itself. There is a lack of understanding of the basics of capitalism—how it works to provide jobs, homes and most of the good things that contribute to the American standard of living.

Of course, the Constitution is the single essential element for our way of life. It is the law of the land and we are a nation ruled by law. Sadly, we see that the Constitution is under attack from many different adversaries. Free enterprise is questioned by many of our own citizens.

Part of Texas Farm Bureau's mission is to support the truth of the Constitution and free enterprise. TFB believes that informed citizens are better citizens.

Knowledge is power and you will leave YLC with the power of understanding your obligations of service and citizenship.



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—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.”

Texas Farm Bureau has always had a special interest in the development of youth. This marks the 56th year that the state organization has sponsored the Youth Leadership Conference. Last year, more than \$118,000 in scholarship funds were awarded to qualified, deserving young people. Both the state and county Farm Bureaus dedicate substantial resources to help our young people.

The Farm Bureau is committed to help young adults achieve and reach dreams. Our communities, our state and our nation need qualified leaders and the Youth Leadership Conference helps to develop them. We look forward to seeing you there!

Russell Boening  
President  
Texas Farm Bureau



## VALUE-BASED LEADERSHIP

Texas youth 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 2019
- 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 10-14, 2019  
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 2019 Youth Leadership Conference, contestants give three local speeches on free enterprise, which must be six to eight minutes 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 Leadership Conference in January 2020.

## REWARDS ARE SWEET

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

Every participant can enter the Free Enterprise Speech Contest in the fall of 2019. 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 2020.

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**

Like Texas Farm Bureau, we believe that a strong Texas demands solid leadership and a commitment to excellence. Farm Bureau's annual Youth Leadership Conference inspires high school juniors and seniors to excel, follow their dreams and make the world a better place. Tarleton takes great pride in being part of that effort. We are equally proud of our historic ties to agriculture in Texas and our ongoing partnerships with Texas Farm Bureau, a preeminent voice for agricultural interests in the state.