

# *The Junior Statesmen Foundation*

## ***TEXAS INSTITUTE ON LEADERSHIP & POLITICS***

*June 7-10, 2010*



# **ORIENTATION PACKET**

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# THE TEXAS INSTITUTE ON LEADERSHIP & POLITICS

June 7-10, 2010

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

-- sponsored by --

THE JUNIOR STATESMEN FOUNDATION

1600 K Street, NW, Ste 803

Washington, DC 20006

800-317-9338 fax: 202-296-7839

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## ORIENTATION PACKET

Congratulations on your acceptance to the Texas Institute on Leadership and Politics. This packet contains important information on when to arrive, what to expect and how to prepare for the program. Please read it carefully and write or call us if you have any questions. We look forward to your participation in this unique educational experience.

***PLEASE RETURN THE ENCLOSED REGISTRATION FORM AND YOUR TUITION PAYMENT ASAP.*** Your tuition payment will guarantee your place in the Institute. If you will not be attending, please notify us as soon as possible so that we may offer your space to another interested student.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Government decision makers at the state and federal level have an enormous impact on our everyday lives. The Institute is an exciting behind-the-scenes exploration of Texas politics and Presidential leadership. The program begins Monday morning, June 7, at the University of Texas at Austin, with an orientation on the issues and personalities that dominate state politics. The program will conclude with a Graduation Ceremony on Thursday, June 10.

On two of the four Institute days you will have an opportunity to meet and question the powerful leaders from politics, government, and the media that make things happen in Texas government. These sessions will be held in legislative chambers in the State Capitol. The remainder of the Institute will be spent analyzing the Presidency and the traits required for successful executive leadership. We will travel to the Bush Presidential Library on the Texas A&M campus by chartered bus, in addition to visiting the LBJ Library on the UT campus.

Topics of discussion and debate vary during each session, depending upon current events and the questions challenging state and national leaders. Issues we anticipate examining this year include:

### State and Local Government

- Texas politics
- The 2010 Statewide Election
- Standardized testing
- School finance
- Immigration

### Presidential Leadership

- Foreign policy
- National Security
- Domestic policy (particularly economic)
- Presidential rhetoric

Each evening, Institute staff lead small group discussions on the speakers and topics of the day. These sessions help draw educational lessons from the day's events and prepare students for the next day's speakers. You will also probe the opinions of your peers in lively discussions and debates on current issues in the news.

While the Institute is not heavily academic, most of your day and evening is filled with educational activities.

## TUITION & FUNDRAISING

Please mail your \$400 tuition fee and Registration Form to The Junior Statesmen Foundation, 1600 K St. NW Suite 803, Washington DC 20006. Checks should be made payable to The Junior Statesmen Foundation. **In order to hold your place in the Institute, we must receive these items within 10 days of your acceptance letter.**

Institute tuition covers housing in a student residence hall at The University of Texas at Austin, breakfast and dinner on campus, transportation to and from campus to our speaker sites, and all academic activities and materials. However, you will need to bring enough money to buy four lunches. There are many inexpensive restaurants in downtown Austin and university area. *Students who need to arrive on Sunday, June 6 may do so for an additional charge of \$75. Please fill out the Sunday night registration portion of the tuition payment form and include the extra \$75 with your tuition payment.*

Some students, through their own fundraising efforts, receive partial or full scholarships from local donors. Contributors should send donations to the Foundation office in Washington, DC with an accompanying letter or memo naming the student they are assisting. Checks should be made payable to The Junior Statesmen Foundation. For more information on how to raise money in your community, please contact The Junior Statesmen Foundation at (800) 317-9338.

## ARRIVAL & REGISTRATION

Registration will take place on Monday, June 7, from 8:00 a.m. until 9:15 a.m. at the University of Texas in the Lobby of Jester Center West. **Specific registration details and a map will be mailed a week prior to the start of the program.**

Students are responsible for arranging their transportation to and from the University of Texas at Austin. Students traveling by adult driven car (or by shuttle from the airport) should arrive at UT Austin Monday, June 7, between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. **Students may not drive a car to the Institute or have a car at the Institute—NO EXCEPTIONS.**

## GRADUATION & DEPARTURE

The Institute will conclude on Thursday, June 10, at approximately 5:00 p.m. Graduation ceremonies will be held at The University of Texas at Austin from approximately 4:00-5:00 p.m. Family and friends are invited to attend the ceremonies and will receive details on the ceremony location at registration.

Students traveling by plane should not make reservations to fly before 7:00 p.m. Students being picked up at the University should be picked up between 5:00-5:30 p.m. Students will have time to move out of their rooms before the Graduation Ceremony if parents or guardians would like to arrive around 3:00 p.m.

Students leaving campus at the conclusion of the program with someone other than their parents or guardian must provide written permission from their parents to do so. This permission must be received prior to the program.

## HOUSING

Institute students will be housed two to a room and will share a community bathroom with other participants. Male and female students will be housed in separate areas of the dorm. The Institute staff is housed on each floor and is responsible for the supervision of the students. The dorm is air-conditioned, but students may want to bring a fan for additional comfort.

Roommate selection is done in advance and cannot be changed. If you would like to share a room with someone you already know, **both students must return the enclosed Roommate Request Form** to the Junior Statesmen Foundation Office as soon as possible, preferably by May 17, 2010.

Students will be responsible for leaving their room in the same condition in which they found it and will be charged

for any damages that occur. There is a significant replacement charge for lost keys and meal cards. ***Please make sure to bring a key chain so you will not lose your key or access card.***

### **EXPERIENCE THE JUNIOR STATE OF AMERICA!**

Throughout the Institute you will participate in lively discussions and debates on current issues with your peers. These debates are an excellent introduction to the **Junior State of America**, the largest, student-run political education organization in the country! Founded seventy-five years ago by high school students, JSA today involves over 10,000 participants across the country.

After attending the Institute, we hope that you will start a JSA chapter at your high school. Typical chapter activities include student debates of controversial issues, bipartisan speakers programs, mock trials, candidate nights, voter registration drives and school-wide assemblies on campus issues. JSA chapters are the center of political activity and awareness in their high schools. Members across the state also meet at three overnight weekend conventions each year. So, come prepared to get the tools you'll need to join the most exciting and political student-run organization in the country!

## **INSTITUTE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. Students must reside in Institute housing during the week. Under no circumstances can they commute to the program.
2. Students must attend all Institute functions unless excused by a staff member.
3. Students are not permitted to leave campus without permission. They may not leave with a relative (other than their parents) or any other adult unless specific written permission is received from their parents in advance.
4. **Students may not drive a car during the week or ride in a car unless it is driven by a staff member.**
5. Students are to be in their own room and quiet at 11:00 p.m. each night.
6. **No use of illegal drugs, alcohol, or cigarette smoking will be permitted.**
7. Housing is segregated by sex and students may not be on the floor of the opposite sex.
8. Harassment, sexual or otherwise, of any other student, or staff person, will not be permitted.
9. Other common sense rules may be announced by the Institute Director, as the need arises.

**Violation of these rules can result in students being sent home  
without refund and other appropriate action.**

### **VISITORS**

Because the Institute is a short, intensive week of politics and government, no visitors are allowed during the week. The only exception is that parents may visit. Parental visits, if necessary, should be limited to a few minutes in the evening and should not conflict with any scheduled event.

Students leaving campus at the conclusion of the program with someone other than their parents or guardian must provide written permission from their parents to do so. This permission must be received prior to the program.

### **WHAT TO DO IN ADVANCE**

Institute students are encouraged to read the *Dallas Morning News*, the *Houston Chronicle*, the *Austin-American Statesman*, *Texas Monthly* and watch the local news during the weeks prior to the Institute. Look for coverage of the issues previously mentioned, and keep in mind that the program will be shaped by the topics that interest you and your peers.

## IN CONCLUSION

Get ready for an exciting educational adventure that offers:

- ❑ A behind-the-scenes look at the workings of politics and leadership in action.
- ❑ An opportunity to polish your speaking, analytical, and leadership skills so that you can play a more active role in your school and community.
- ❑ A front row seat for the deliberations of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government.
- ❑ An opportunity to exchange ideas with powerful policymakers.
- ❑ A chance to discuss and debate some of the major issues facing Texas and the nation with high school students from throughout the state.
- ❑ Four days experiencing college life at the University of Texas at Austin.
- ❑ An opportunity to make new friends as you experience first-hand the drama, politics and excitement of the world of government and politics.

If you are interested in reviewing a sample daily schedule, please visit the Institute portion of the Junior Statesmen web site, [www.jsa.org](http://www.jsa.org). While the speakers and topics will vary, the program will be similar to this schedule.

Please don't hesitate to contact Elizabeth Ventura ([eventura@jsa.org](mailto:eventura@jsa.org)), Texas program Director, or Katie Langford ([klangford@jsa.org](mailto:klangford@jsa.org)), Texas Institute Program Director, if you have any questions about the Institute. Call our toll free number: 800-317-9338.

## PACKING LIST

The dress code for all daytime sessions at Institute is business attire, however, during the evening you should dress casually. When meeting public officials, you should dress as if you were going to a job interview or church or temple event. Jeans, shorts, T-shirts, spaghetti straps and tank tops, and tennis shoes, and flip flops are not appropriate attire for meeting with our speakers.

Remember to pack comfortable shoes as we will be doing a good deal of walking. Consider bringing a sweater; the meeting rooms we use are air-conditioned and get very cool. Also, be sure to bring comfortable informal clothing to wear on campus in the evenings. There will be some time for informal recreation during the week and a social event on Wednesday night.

The following lists of clothing and other important items will help you get started packing:

### Females

business attire (dress or pant suit, dress slacks & jacket)  
blouses, skirts or dresses (knee-length or longer)  
dress shoes (no flip flops) & nylons  
shorts  
jeans  
tee-shirts  
underwear  
nightgown or pajamas  
sandals or tennis shoes  
light jacket or sweater

### Males

business attire (suit, dress slacks & sports jacket)  
dress shirts & ties  
dress shoes & socks  
shorts  
jeans  
T-shirts  
underwear  
pajamas  
sandals or tennis shoes  
light jacket or sweater

### Everyone should also bring the following:

1. A pillow & extra-long twin sheets
2. Hand towels, wash cloths, soap
3. A notebook and pens
4. An alarm clock
5. Key chain (recommended)
6. A fan (optional)
7. Personal items (toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.)
8. An umbrella
9. Hangers
10. A camera (optional)
11. A watch
12. Spending money (for lunches, snacks, and souvenirs)

**Students should not bring valuable items to the Institute.** While the dormitory is staffed 24 hours a day, we will be off campus during the day. Neither the University of Texas at Austin nor The Junior Statesmen Foundation can assume responsibility for your personal belongings.

**TEXAS INSTITUTE ON LEADERSHIP & POLITICS  
REGISTRATION FORM  
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN JUNE 7-10, 2010**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

MALE\_\_ FEMALE\_\_ AGE\_\_ BIRTH DATE \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

HIGH SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

YEAR YOU WILL GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL: 2011 2012 2013 2014

**PARENTS' STATEMENT**

We have read the orientation packet and we agree to allow our son/daughter to attend The Junior Statesmen Texas Institute on Politics & Leadership, subject to all Institute rules governing conduct both on and off campus. We understand that our son or daughter may be sent home during the session for any serious health reasons or conduct violations, without a refund. Institute officials are authorized to obtain, at our expense, any emergency medical service that our son or daughter may require.

\_\_\_\_ Our child has had a recent physical examination and is in good health. He/she is physically able to participate in all aspects of the academic and recreational program of The Junior Statesmen Institute.

\_\_\_\_ Our son/daughter has the following health problems and/or special needs of which you should be aware.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE PARENT'S OR GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE

Do you have health insurance? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, what company? \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's daytime phone number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Father's daytime phone number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's evening phone number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Father's evening phone number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please turn the page and fill out the reverse side of this form. Return to: The Junior Statesmen Foundation 1600 K St. NW Suite 803, Washington, DC 20006.**

## TUITION FORM

**TEXAS INSTITUTE ON POLITICS & LEADERSHIP  
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
June 7-10, 2010**

**The Institute tuition is \$400, and your tuition is due within 10 days.**

Your tuition is refundable as long as you notify The Junior Statesmen Foundation, in writing, at least two weeks prior to the start of the program. However, in accordance with federal tax laws, any scholarship contributions given in your name are not refundable. If any service clubs, other organizations, or family friends are paying all or part of your tuition, please ask them to mail their check directly to the Foundation office in Washington, DC, with a note designating the money for your tuition.

**If you have any questions about your tuition, please contact The Junior Statesmen Foundation at 800-317-9338.**

\_\_\_ Enclosed is my \$400 tuition.

\_\_\_ Yes, I will be arriving on Sunday, June 6 and need to register for an additional night's stay. Enclosed is \$75.

**Students who are arriving on Sunday, June 6 must submit \$75 for the extra night stay. Students may arrive between 6:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. to check-in at Jester Center on the UT Campus.**

I am paying by:

\_\_\_ Check (make payable to The Junior Statesmen Foundation)

\_\_\_ VISA

\_\_\_ MasterCard

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Card Holder's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card Holder's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to: The Junior Statesmen Foundation, 1600 K St. NW Suite 803, Washington DC 20006**

## Roommate Request Form

The Institute housing list will be turned in to the University in late May. Roommate selection is done in advance and cannot be changed. If you would like to share a room with someone you already know, **BOTH STUDENTS MUST RETURN THIS FORM** to the Junior Statesmen Foundation Office as soon as possible, preferably by May 17, 2010. The tuition of both students **must be fully paid** if the roommate request is to be honored.

**Please complete the following information. Both students should complete their form individually.**

Texas Institute: June 7-10, 2010

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to room with \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Date