



## LONE STAR LEADERSHIP ACADEMY FAQs

### **What is Education in Action?**

Education in Action is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to empowering young people to be informed and active leaders in their communities. We fulfill this mission by providing the Lone Star Leadership Academy camp experience for young Texas leaders.

### **What is the Lone Star Leadership Academy?**

Lone Star Leadership Academies are weeklong (Sunday-Friday) summer camps for outstanding Texas 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders. Young leaders from across Texas meet in Dallas/Fort Worth, Austin/San Antonio, or Houston/Galveston for a week of fun, learning, leadership development, and visits to unique and historically significant Texas destinations. Each day students explore notable Texas sites, learn about unique careers from professionals at sites visited, and develop their leadership abilities during leadership groups with their facilitators. Staff to student ratio is 1:10. Because of the academic nature of the program, adult facilitators are Texas teachers. In addition to improving their leadership abilities, participants gain self-confidence and independence and develop new friendships with other high-achieving students from across the state. Upon completion of the program, each participant receives a Lone Star Leader Certificate of Merit to be added to his or her academic achievements. Lone Star Leadership Academy camps include:

**Leadership Groups:** Participants are assigned to Leadership Groups. One Facilitator is assigned to each small Leadership Group of students. Leadership Groups give students the opportunity to develop friendships with other students, analyze speakers' remarks, discuss important issues, reflect on program activities, prepare for upcoming events, and form a strong relationship with their Facilitator. Facilitators lead Leadership Group meetings, guide participants through program activities, and work directly with students to make their week a rich and rewarding experience.

**Leadership Notebook:** Each participant receives a Leadership Notebook containing a detailed program schedule, speakers' biographies, site information, and special interest stories. Leadership Notebooks include materials to enhance the educational value of sites visited and are used to facilitate discussions and individual and group activities. Leadership Notebooks are also designed to be used as a reference in participants' classes upon their return to school.

**Simulations:** Learning objectives are extended through simulations relating to each day's leadership skill of the day. Simulations promote reasoning skills and teach critical thinking by encouraging students to ask their own questions. Studies demonstrate that students involved in a hands-on learning environment retain a higher percentage of information than those learning through one methodology, such as rote memorization. The purpose of simulations is to motivate and promote students' abilities to participate as informed citizens in a democratic society.

**Career Speakers:** During the program, participants have the opportunity to learn about a variety of unique careers from speakers at sites visited. Presenters discuss education requirements, a typical day, and the pros and cons of their professions. Students have the opportunity to ask questions and explore future career options.

### **What are the program requirements?**

Participants maintain an overall average of B (85 or 3.5) or higher, are recommended by a school counselor, teacher, or principal based on demonstrated leadership ability, and are involved in school or community activities. Students must also submit a program application and fee by the application deadline.

### **For what program may a student sign up?**

The grade the student is in during the school year prior to the summer they are participating determines programs in which they are eligible to participate.

2017-2018 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, & 6<sup>th</sup> graders may apply for 2018 Lone Star Leadership Academy – Dallas/Fort Worth camps.\*

2017-2018 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, & 7<sup>th</sup> graders may apply for 2018 Lone Star Leadership Academy – Austin/San Antonio camps.\*

2017-2018 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> graders may apply for 2018 Lone Star Leadership Academy – Houston/Galveston camps.\*

*\*Lone Star Leadership Academies are best experienced in the order listed above (Dallas/Fort Worth, Austin/San Antonio, then Houston/Galveston). Education in Action recommends that all 4th, 5th, and 6th graders sign up for the Dallas/Fort Worth program first so that in the future they will be able to participate in all Lone Star Leadership Academy programs should they desire to do so.*

### **Are there any opportunities for participants once they have completed the Lone Star Leadership Academy?**

Lone Star Leadership Academy alumni are invited to participate in Education in Action's alumni organization, the Lone Star Leadership Academy Alumni Council, to continue their leadership development during the school year. The alumni program provides members with continued leadership training and opportunities to exercise their leadership skills including creating and leading service projects in their community and returning on Lone Star Leadership Academy camps as Youth Facilitators.

### **Who are the adult staff members?**

Because of the academic nature of the camp, all facilitators are Texas educators. Student/staff member ratio is 10:1. In addition to the facilitators, there is a Director and an Assistant Director on each program. Each year Education in Action conducts a background check on all adult staff members prior to the summer programs.

### **Are students supervised at all times?**

Yes. The schedule is very structured and at no time are students unsupervised. At registration parents receive a detailed agenda of what sites participants are visiting and/or activities they are participating in at all times during the program week. There are no fewer than two female adults in each girls' group lodging room and no fewer than two male adults in each boys' group lodging room to supervise students overnight.

### **What are the lodging facilities like?**

Lodging facilities for all Lone Star Leadership Academy camps are air-conditioned, group bunk dormitories with private showers. Lone Star Leadership Academy participants and at least two program Facilitators are housed in each dorm. Each participant brings a sleeping bag or twin sheets, blanket, and pillow for their bed.

#### **Dallas/Fort Worth Lodging:**

North Texas Leadership Academy private school in Keller, TX

#### **Austin/San Antonio Lodging:**

Education in Action dorms in Wimberley, TX

#### **Houston/Galveston Lodging\*:**

Jones Creek Ranch Park in Richmond, TX



*\*Students spend Thursday night of the Houston/Galveston program at the George Observatory, located in Needville, TX, completing a space simulation and stargazing with the observatory's telescopes. **Houston/Galveston camp participants must bring a sleeping bag to sleep on the floor on a provided mat. Twin-size egg crate foam pads are permitted but not required.***

### **Are student cell phones permitted?**

Student cell phones are not permitted on Lone Star Leadership Academy camps. This includes use of a cell phone as a camera. Personal digital cameras and disposable cameras are encouraged. Education in Action encourages students to write home regularly to their parents, siblings, and other relatives. Parents are encouraged to give students pre-addressed, stamped envelopes or postcards so they can write home.

### **How can parents/family get mail to campers?**

Parents/family need to bring mail they would like their student to receive during their week at camp to registration on Sunday with each piece of mail labeled with the day they would like it delivered. Staff members deliver mail to students each day at breakfast. Education in Action asks that parents/family NOT mail letters via the post office to students during their camp week as the letters often arrive at camp after the students have already returned home. Education in Action cannot guarantee that students will receive mail sent via the post office.

### **Do students call home during the week?**

Students do not call home during the program week. For students riding the bus from Dallas/Fort Worth to the Austin/San Antonio or Houston/Galveston programs, Education in Action posts a notice on Facebook.com/EducationInAction after the bus arrives at the location along with the time they arrived. In addition, camp photos are posted online daily.

The Director has a cell phone with them **at all times** during the camp. Parents are provided with this phone number so they may contact the group at any time in case of an emergency. If anything out of the ordinary, medical or otherwise, happens with a student during the camp, the Director notifies the parent immediately. In cases of homesickness or aches/pains, sometimes the student just needs to call home and we allow them to do this on the Director's cell phone. We

encourage parents to remind their students that the adults on the program are available to help them in any way they can and to remind their students to tell an adult if they need anything while they are on the program.

**Are updates provided to parents throughout the program week?**

Yes. Camp pictures are posted online daily. Education in Action notifies parents each time new pictures are uploaded throughout the program week via Facebook.com/EducationInAction and Twitter.com/eiatexas.

**From where, and when, do participants depart and return?**

**Lone Star Leadership Academy – Dallas/Fort Worth camps:**

On-site registration is at 3:30 P.M. on Sunday of the program week at North Texas Leadership Academy private school in Keller, TX. Pick-up is at 1:30 P.M. on Friday of the program week at Rangers Ballpark/Globe Life Park in Arlington, TX.

**Lone Star Leadership Academy – Austin/San Antonio camps:**

On-site registration is at 5:00 P.M. on Sunday of the program week at Education in Action in Wimberley, TX. Pick-up is at 1:00 P.M. on Friday of the program week at the Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin, TX.

**Lone Star Leadership Academy – Houston/Galveston camps:**

On-site registration is at 5:00 P.M. on Sunday of the program week at Jones Creek Ranch Park in Richmond, TX. Pick-up is at 1:00 P.M. on Friday of the program week at The Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts in Spring, TX.

**What is the charter bus option from Dallas/Fort Worth on the student application?**

Because Education in Action's main office is in Keller, round-trip charter bus transportation **from registration** in Keller, TX **to the Austin and Houston program locations** is available for \$70.00. The bus leaves **from** North Texas Leadership Academy private school in Keller, TX on Sunday and transports students on the **Austin/San Antonio** or **Houston/Galveston** programs **to the program site**. The bus brings the students back to the North Texas Leadership Academy in Keller, TX on Friday. All passengers on the charter bus are Lone Star Leadership Academy participants or staff members. Charter bus passengers are engaged in icebreaker and educational activities during the ride to the program site. The same bus is used for transportation during the weeklong program.

***Students choosing the round-trip charter bus transportation option from Keller, TX to the Austin/San Antonio program*** register at 12:30 P.M. on Sunday of the program week. Pick up is at 5:00 P.M. on Friday of the program week.

***Students choosing the round-trip charter bus transportation option from Keller, TX to the Houston/Galveston program*** register at 12:30 P.M. on Sunday of the program week. Pick up is at 5:30 P.M. on Friday of program week.

**Can participants bring a friend?**

Education in Action encourages all students that meet the program requirements to apply.

**Can participants request to room with a friend?**

Yes. Education in Action assigns participants to group bunk dorms by geographic area. While we are unable to guarantee rooming requests we make every effort to honor your request.

**How do students apply for the program?**

Students may apply online or request a printable application at [www.educationinaction.org/apply](http://www.educationinaction.org/apply). Printed applications are also available by emailing an application request to [admissions@educationinaction.org](mailto:admissions@educationinaction.org) or by calling Education in Action at 817-562-4957. Applications must include a counselor's signature or a copy of the student's most recent grade report/report card verifying the applicant's overall average is B (85 or 3.5), a nomination by the applicant's principal, counselor, or teacher to attend based on demonstrated leadership ability, and two school/community activities in which the applicant participates or awards the applicant has received. **The application deadline for 2018 summer programs is Saturday, May 5, 2018.**

**What is the Lone Star Leadership Academy program fee and what does it include?**

The \$995.00 program fee includes everything the student needs for their week at the Lone Star Leadership Academy:

- Lodging for five nights in supervised, air-conditioned, group bunk dormitory
- All meals Sunday dinner through Friday lunch
- Charter bus transportation throughout program
- All excursions including entrance fees
- 10 to 1 student-adult staff member ratio
- *Because of the academic nature of the program, all facilitators are Texas educators.*
- 24-hour supervision
- Interactive, hands-on, higher-level thinking curriculum
- Lone Star Leadership Academy t-shirts (Monday – Friday)
- Lone Star Leadership Academy backpack and water bottle
- Leadership Notebook
- Farewell Program slide show pictures upon receipt of parent survey
- Program souvenirs

**Will participants need extra money?**

The program application fee covers students' accommodations, meals, and all activities. Students may bring money for souvenirs from gift shops at sites visited, extra snacks, etc., but it is not required. Should students choose to bring extra money, Education in Action recommends they bring no more than \$50.00. Students that bring extra money are responsible for keeping up with it. Education in Action staff members will not hold, or be responsible for, a student's money.

**How can students raise funds to go?**

Students are encouraged to visit the Financial Aid section on Education in Action's website, [www.educationinaction.org/financial-aid](http://www.educationinaction.org/financial-aid). Scholarship opportunities and ideas on how to raise money for the program application fee are provided along with a sponsorship template letter.

**Are scholarships available?**

There are many scholarships available for students and parents willing to research options. As Education in Action becomes aware of scholarships, they are posted at [www.educationinaction.org/financial-aid](http://www.educationinaction.org/financial-aid). Success stories from families who have worked to raise funds for the program are also available online.

**What if an applicant doesn't have medical insurance?**

Education in Action requires that all participants have medical insurance during their time on the program so they will be able to receive care in the event of a medical emergency. If an applicant does not have medical insurance, the parent may purchase a temporary one month policy. If temporary insurance will be used, a [Temporary Insurance Acknowledgement Form](#), available at <http://educationinaction.org/lone-star-leadership-academy/faqs>, must be completed and submitted with the student's camp application. Education in Action works with BOAZ Insurance Agency as an option for temporary insurance. Please contact 817-562-4957 or email [admissions@educationinaction.org](mailto:admissions@educationinaction.org) for more information.

**How will a student know if their application was accepted?**

Completed applications are accepted on a first-come, first-considered basis. The application indicates for the applicant to list their 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> program date choices. Date requests will be honored based on availability. Because programs fill quickly, Education in Action encourages students to apply early to increase the chances of getting their preferred program date. If the applicant's first three program date choices are not available, Education in Action will contact the applicant's parent with any remaining available dates. Upon acceptance into the Lone Star Leadership Academy each participant receives a Welcome Packet including student program guidelines, a packing list, a sample program agenda, and a press release to distribute to the local news media. Welcome Packets are mailed to accepted students prior to the start of their program week.

Rhonda Richardson, Lone Star Leadership Academy Programs Director, is available to answer any additional questions at 817-562-4957 or [rrichardson@educationinaction.org](mailto:rrichardson@educationinaction.org).