

**The Ralph E. Cole  
Memorial Scholarship Program  
Ambassador's Search**

The Texas Mushroom Festival invites youth between the ages of 14 and 19 who attend Madisonville or North Zulch Schools to participate in the 2011-2012 Texas Mushroom Festival Ambassador's search. The top two finalists will be named Texas Mushroom Festival Ambassador's and will be introduced at the Texas Mushroom Festival Board Meeting in October and proceeding events.

**Saturday, September 17**

Contestants will sign in at a location to be determined at 10:00 a.m. and begin the interview process. Contestants will be expected to wear appropriate attire for the interview. The top two contestants will be announced at the conclusion of the interview process and become the 2011-2012 Texas Mushroom Festival Ambassadors. These representatives will be actively involved in all Texas Mushroom Festival planning and implementation. They will be expected to attend monthly Texas Mushroom Festival Board Meetings as non-voting representatives. Additionally, the TMF Ambassadors will promote the festival at various events throughout their term as Ambassadors. All TMF Ambassador contestants will be honored at the October Texas Mushroom Festival Board Meeting at 4:00 p.m.

**2011-2012 Texas Mushroom Festival Ambassador's Search**

**RULES & REGULATIONS**

**Requirements for Participation**

1. Contestants must be 14 - 19 years of age and be enrolled in Madisonville CISD or North Zulch ISD.
2. Contestants cannot be married or have any children.
3. Contestants will demonstrate good leadership and citizenship skills.
4. Contestants must be able to document participation in community service projects.
5. Contestants must be able to communicate effectively in verbal and written form.
6. Contestants will be representing the Texas Mushroom Festival and should act professionally and appropriately at all times.
7. Two Ambassadors will be chosen by the Community-Based Interview Board based upon criteria listed below.
8. The 2011-2012 Ambassador's must be available during the Texas Mushroom Festival for public appearances and for promotion of festival events during the year.

Two 2011-2012 Ambassadors will be chosen by the community-based interview board (CBIB). The CBIB will be comprised of no less than five and no more than 10 representatives from the Madisonville and North Zulch communities. The process through which the CBIB will determine the winners is as follows:

- A. Listen to the speeches of all candidates
- B. Analyze application packets
- C. Conduct individual professional interviews
- D. Utilize the following criteria to deem the top two candidates as the 2011-2012 Texas Mushroom Festival Ambassadors:

**Criteria for Judging Texas Mushroom Festival Ambassador Contestants**

- I. **Academics** : Academic excellence as documented by copy of current official transcript and (2) two letters of recommendation from a teacher, counselor or advisor of a leadership organization (20%)
- II. **Civic Involvement:** Using submitted application and the interview, the CBIB will evaluate participation in community service projects and activities which include, but are not limited to, school, leadership organizations, civic organizations and churches (20%)
- III. **Prepared Speech:** Contestants will present a prepared speech (three minute maximum) on the following topic: "Madison County serves as the host to the Texas Mushroom Festival. Why is this festival beneficial to our county and how can we best promote the mission effectively?" (10%)
- IV. **Professionalism** - Professional and appropriate behavior during interview and demonstration of the ability to be successful and effective at public appearances during tenure (15%)
- V. Interview - Ability to effectively verbalize answers to questions dealing with current topics and community information (20%)
- VI. **Judges' Questions** - Ability to answer questions in front of CBIB (10%)
- VII. **Quiz** – Objective test regarding the Texas Mushroom Festival implementation, history, and/or mushroom identification (5%)

#### **Important Dates for Participation**

**September 1** – Application packets including Typed TMF Ambassador’s Search Application, Two Letters of Recommendation, and copies of school transcripts are due by 4:00 p.m. to: Barbara Richter or Melissa Isaacs at Madisonville High School or Jane Dill at North Zulch High School.

**September 10** - Contestants will sign in at Madisonville High School at 10:00 a.m. and begin the interview process with the CBIB at that time. Contestants will be expected to wear appropriate attire for the interview.

*The 2011-2012 Ambassadors must be available for the following dates in addition to other appearances as determined by the Texas Mushroom Festival Board:*

**Friday, October 21** - Texas Mushroom Festival Dinner

**Saturday, October 22** - Texas Mushroom Festival Activities

**Monthly** - Texas Mushroom Festival Board Meetings – 4:00 p.m. the last Tuesday of the month at The Woodbine Hotel

#### **Scholarship Information:**

Upon enrollment into an institution of post-secondary education, each ambassador will be awarded a \$1,500 scholarship. Ambassadors must show proof of enrollment to the TMF Board within two years of completion of high school to attain award. Failure to enroll within this time frame will result in forfeiture of the award. No Ambassador or queen may be eligible for subsequent contests which fall under the Ralph E. Cole Memorial Scholarship program.

#### **2011-2012 Texas Mushroom Festival Ambassador Search Coordinators:**

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