



## TEXAS BRIGADES SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

If you need financial assistance with your registration fee, you should explore the businesses and organizations in your community. There are contributors waiting for you to ask for support!

### As you seek sponsorship, keep in mind the following:

- Most people like to be asked for contributions. It shows that you have faith in their generosity!
- Know what it is you are requesting. Read the background information and website information thoroughly to learn about the program. Use the words "leadership development" – that is what the Brigades is truly about.
- Show your respect for your potential donors by making an appointment to meet with them. Be punctual and do not take more time than necessary.
- Always send a personal thank you note after a meeting even if you did not receive a contribution.
- When writing to potential contributors, double check the spelling of their names and job titles.
- Do not be discouraged if you do not receive a contribution from everyone you ask.
- Remember, you do not have to get the whole amount from one person. Ten dollars from 15 people is the same as \$150 from one person!
- If your prospect says "Yes", say "Thank You" and offer to come back to them after the camp and tell them all about it. If the donation is coming from a group, offer to come back after camp and make a presentation to the group. You will be given the material to be able to accomplish this!

### We recommend a three-part formula for corresponding with potential sponsors:

1. An introductory letter (sample included)
2. A follow-up call to set an appointment
3. A thank you note

### Possible sponsors in your community

Soil and Water Conservation District	Banks
Quail Unlimited Chapter	Law firms
Turkey Federation Chapter	Agricultural businesses
Wildlife/Outdoor-related businesses	4H Clubs
Other wildlife oriented organizations	FFA Booster Clubs
Local Farm Bureau organization	Other school organizations
Business and professional organizations	Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions clubs
(Toastmasters is an example)	BASS Club
Veterinarians	Taxidermists
Sportsmen/Outdoorsmen (and women!)	
Any organization that supports youth leadership development	

### Where can you find this information?

Parents	Yellow pages – look under "Business Organizations", "Agriculture", etc.
Relatives	
Neighbors	White pages – Kiwanis, Rotary
Chamber of Commerce	Internet

**Your letter should be one page, typed, with one inch margins. Do not use less than a 10 font type. This is a 10 font.**

*Sample solicitation letter*

Your address  
Your city, state, zip code  
Your phone number

Date of letter

Prospective Sponsor's name  
Address  
City, state, zip

Dear Mr./Mrs./Miss:

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am currently a student at \_\_\_\_ (name of school). I am very active in school/community activities including \_\_\_\_ (list a couple of things here) \_\_\_\_\_. My overall grade average is \_\_\_\_\_.

I have been selected as one of 30 students to participate in the \_\_\_\_\_ (name of camp) \_\_\_\_\_ this summer. The Brigade is an award-winning leadership development program which focuses on wildlife, fisheries, and natural resources.

The fee for this program is \$300 and I am asking you and others in the community for assistance in raising the funds. I have committed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (it is best if you or your parents can at least commit to \$50) and ask for a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ from you/your organization/your business. The Brigades is a non-profit organization and donations may be tax-deductible.

The Texas Brigades' mission is to empower high school youth with the necessary skills and knowledge in wildlife and fisheries, habitat conservation, land and water stewardship, team-building, communication, and leadership to become ambassadors for conservation in order to ensure a sustained wildlife and fisheries legacy for future generations. During this week-long educational experience, I will learn from wildlife and natural resource professionals. Team-building, public speaking, and critical-thinking skills are learned and honed as we participate in hands-on learning activities. For more information on the Brigades, please review their website, [www.texasbrigades.org](http://www.texasbrigades.org).

I am very excited about this opportunity to learn more about our state's rich wildlife and fisheries heritage. (You could insert here something about your career goals if you have an idea as to what they may be.) Upon completion of the program, I will use my leadership and communication skills to share with the citizens of my community what I learned at the Brigades.

I would be happy to meet with you at your convenience. I may be reached at the phone number listed above. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

(sign here)

Your name