



TORNILLO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

INNOVATING – EMPOWERING – THRIVING

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Trustees
From: Student Council Sponsor, Mr. Lazo and Tornillo PreK-8 Principal, Mrs. Lopez
Subject: Informational Purposes- Student Council Leadership Conference, Washington D.C
Date: October 22, 2025

RATIONALE:

The LEAD National Student Leadership Conference is an annual conference held for students every year to help connect inspiring student leaders from across the country, grow their leadership skills, and walk away ready to lead change in their communities.

This year's conference will be held in Washington D.C on February 27-March 1. This is an exciting opportunity that the Tornillo JH Student Council would like to provide for ten, 8th grade students that participate in Student Council. In addition to the 3 days of the leadership conference, the students would stay an additional 2 days to visit and learn about our nation's monuments and museums.

BUDGET IMPACT:

Student council will be fundraising for this trip. The goal being that it raises \$22,052 for all students and adults attending. The Agenda Sheet included in this packet includes the fundraising efforts that Student Campus will engage in.

Per Student/Adult Pricing	Total Pricing for Students & Adults
Registration Fee: \$299 Airfare: \$507 (includes 1 checked bag) Hotel: \$507 Meals: \$308 Transportation in DC: \$77 (metro card/uber)	Registration Fee: \$3, 887 Airfare: \$6, 590 Hotel: \$6, 575 Meals: \$4, 000 Transportation in DC: \$1, 000
Total: \$1,698	Total: \$22, 052

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION:

This memo is for informational purposes.

LEAD

NATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Washington, D.C.

February 27–March 1, 2026

To: Donor/Sponsor

From: Jorge Lazo

I'm writing to request approval and budget support for our school's STUCO to attend the LEAD Conference, taking place February 27–March 1, 2026, in Washington, D.C. This event offers an invaluable opportunity to develop our student leaders, strengthen our program, and bring fresh ideas back to our school.

Here are several reasons why attendance would benefit our students and school community:

- Collaboration with **2,000+ student leaders and advisers** from across the country.
- Learning about **practical strategies and tools** to grow and sustain a strong student leadership program.
- Hearing from inspiring speakers, including LEAD's first confirmed keynote—**Laurie Hernandez, Olympic gold medalist**, author, and mental health advocate—with more to be announced.
- Returning with **renewed energy, actionable insights, and peer-tested ideas** to improve engagement and impact.
- Providing students with a meaningful opportunity to **develop leadership skills, build confidence**, and learn from diverse perspectives.

Students who have attended in past years have described the experience as transformative, inspiring, and a major confidence boost—helping them find their voice and return with ideas to positively impact their school communities.

We understand that cost is an important consideration. Below is a breakdown to help assess the total investment for this opportunity:

COST BREAKDOWN	
	
Airfare: \$ 6,590	Transportation: \$ 1,000
Hotel: \$ 6,575	Registration Fee: \$ 3,887
Meals: \$ 4,000	<i>\$299 per person for member schools; \$474 per person for nonmember schools</i>
TOTAL: \$ 22,052	

LEAD is a strategic investment in our students' development and in the strength of our school culture. The skills, connections, and ideas they gain will benefit our entire community well beyond the conference weekend. Thank you for considering this opportunity.

Best regards,

Washington D.C. LEAD Conference Agenda & Logistics

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Logistics:

• Cost of Trip

- Total trip cost for 10 students and up to 3 chaperones is \$22,052
- Estimated trip cost per student \$1,698
 - Approximate costs breakdown
 - Airfare: \$507 (includes 1 checked bag)
 - Hotel: \$507
 - Meals: \$308
 - Registration: \$299
 - Transportation: \$77 (metro card/uber)

• Funding Sources

Student council will be fundraising the trip. Fundraising / Donations: will cover airfare, meals, hotel, registration, and transportation. The goal being that it raises \$22,052 for all students and adults attending.

- Donation requests have been submitted to the following organizations / companies. Pending
 - Jordan Foster Construction
 - Fyzical Therapy
 - Verde Logistics
 - Whataburger Feeding Student Success Grant
 - Cane's Community Partnerships
 - Junior League of El Paso
 - CREEED
 - Verde Logistics
 - Mesilla Valley Transportation
 -

Additional Fundraising Activities

- Student Council "Go Fund Me" type page
- "Race to DC" community walk in November. This event is in the exploration phase.
- Any remaining balances will need to be paid by each student.

Washington D.C. LEAD Conference Agenda & Logistics

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- **Transportation:**
 - We will fly to destination
 - Parents will be responsible for dropping off and picking students up from ELP airport
 - Traveling within D.C. will be via subway (students will be responsible for their own transportation money, estimated cost \$30-\$40)
 - Transfer from hotel to airport and vice versa will be via hotel shuttle
- **Lodging**
 - Students will be assigned to rooms with up to 4 students
 - Total of 5-6 rooms will be required for students and chaperones
- **Meals**
 - Breakfast will be provided by hotel
 - Lunch and dinner will be provided by our own funds (fundraisers / donations)
- **Criteria to be considered for trip**
 - STUCO officers have a secured spot (President, Vice- President, Treasurer)
 - Remaining 7 spots will be up for who meet the following criteria
 - Must submit application for consideration
 - Be in good academic standing
 - No behavioral issues
 - Be an active member of STUCO
 - Attend a district events when STUCO is assisting
 - Due to lodging logistics the group will be composed in the following scenarios
 - 6 Male students - 4 Female students
 - 4 Male students - 6 Female students
- **Adult Chaperones**
 - STUCO Advisor- Mr. Lazo
 - District Employees - (total of 2)

Disclaimer: All airport times are subject to change.

Washington D.C. LEAD Conference Agenda & Logistics

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Friday 2/27/26

- Depart ELP international airport (5 am mountain time)
- Arrive in Washington D.C. Reagan Airport (2:25 pm pacific time)
- Take a hotel provided shuttle from the airport to the hotel. (Washington Hilton 1919 Connecticut Ave NW Washington, DC 20009)
- Arrive at the hotel and register for the conference.
- 3:00-4:15 p.m.: Opening General Session and Keynote (all attendees)
- 4:30-6:00 p.m.: Service Project + Regional Networking
- 6:00 p.m.: Conference ends for the day
- 6:30 p.m.: Dinner/possible sight seeing
- 9:00 p.m: All students secured in their respective rooms.

Saturday 2/28/26

- 7:45–8:45 a.m.: Breakfast (At hotel)
- 9:00–10:15 a.m.: General Session (all attendees)
- 10:15 a.m.-10:30 a.m.: Break/Transition
- 10:30-11:15 a.m.: Concurrent Sessions
- 11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.: Lunch (At hotel?)
- 1:00 - 1:45 p.m.: Concurrent Sessions
- 2:00 - 2:45 p.m.: Concurrent Sessions
- 3:00 - 3:45 p.m. : Concurrent Sessions (students only)
- 3:00 - 3:45 p.m. : Adviser Reception
- 4:00 p.m.: Conference end
- 4:30 p.m.: Dinner / National Monument Sight seeing
- 9:00 pm: All students secured in their respective rooms.

Sunday 3/1/26

- 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.: Breakfast (At hotel)
- 9:20 – 10:45 a.m.: Action Planning
- 11:00 a.m. –12:30 p.m.: Closing General Session and Keynote (all attendees)
- 1:00 pm-2:00 pm: Lunch
- 2:00-5:00 pm: Air and Space Museum/ American History Museum / Sight seeing
- 5:30 pm- 6:30 pm: Dinner
- 7:00 pm- 8:30 pm: Sight seeing
- 9:00 pm: All students secured in their respective rooms

Washington D.C. LEAD Conference Agenda & Logistics

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Monday 3/2/26 (Tours will be tentative pending confirmation and availability)

- 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.: Breakfast (At hotel)
- 9:30 - 11:30 am: Capital Tour
- 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm: Lunch
- 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm: White House Tour
- 3:00 pm - 5:00 PM: Sight seeing
- 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm: Dinner
- 7:00 pm- 8:30 pm: Sight seeing
- 9:00 pm: All students secured in their respective rooms

Tuesday 3/3/26

- 7:00 – 8:00 a.m.: Breakfast (At hotel)
- 8:30 am: Depart Hotel via hotel shuttle to Washington D.C. Reagan Airport
- 11:00 am: Depart DCA airport to ELP airport
- 4:30 pm: Arrive at ELP airport for Parent pick-up



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Dear Donor/Sponsor,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Jorge Lazo, and I am reaching out on behalf of Tornillo Pk-8 to share an exciting opportunity—and a meaningful way for your organization to make a lasting impact in our community.

This upcoming spring, a group of our student council leaders will be attending the National Student Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. This prestigious event offers hands-on workshops, mentorship from national leaders, and the chance for students to connect with peers from across the country who are equally passionate about civic engagement and leadership.

For many of our students, this would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. However, the cost of travel, lodging, and conference fees presents a significant barrier. Many of our student leaders come from low-income families, and without financial support, they may not be able to participate.

We are seeking sponsorships and donations to help cover the cost of the trip for these deserving students. ~~Your contribution—whether it's \$250, \$500, \$1,000 or more—will directly fund travel, meals, and registration fees for students who otherwise wouldn't have access to this transformative opportunity.~~

Here's what your support makes possible:

Access to leadership training workshops and national speakers

Engagement in civic activities and team-building challenges

Inspiration for students to return home and lead positive change in their schools and communities

In appreciation of your support, we would be proud to acknowledge your generosity in our school newsletter, social media channels, and any materials we share about the trip. We also welcome the opportunity to discuss further partnership possibilities.

Thank you for considering our request and for your commitment to investing in youth and education. I would love the opportunity to speak with you further and answer any questions you may have.

With gratitude,

Jorge Lazo

Student Council Advisor & Social Studies Teacher

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<https://www.tisd.us/o/pk8>