



2017 Texas Mushroom Festival

Sheri E. Austin/Sunny Clouser/Ralph E. Cole

Memorial Ambassador Search Scholarship Application

The Texas Mushroom Festival, hereinafter referred to as TMF, invites youth between the ages of 14 to 19, who will be attending an institution of post-secondary education within 2 years of being selected as an ambassador of this scholarship, must be a resident of Madison County, Texas enrolled in either a public, private or home school or if not a Madison County resident, must attend a Madison County school to participate in the 2017 Texas Mushroom Festival Ambassador's search. The top three finalists will be named Texas Mushroom Festival Ambassadors.

RULES & REGULATIONS

Scholarship Eligibility

1. Contestants must be 14-19 years of age.
2. Contestants must attend an institution of post-secondary education within 2 years of being selected as an ambassador of this scholarship. Enrollment as a full-time student (i.e., a minimum of 12 (twelve) hours per semester) is required to qualify for funding.
3. Contestants shall submit proof of residency in Madison County and current official transcript.
4. Contestants cannot be married nor have any children.
5. Contestants will demonstrate good leadership and citizenship skills.
6. Contestants must be able to document participation in community service projects.
7. Contestants must be able to communicate effectively in verbal and written form.
8. Contestants will be representing the Texas Mushroom Festival and should act professionally and appropriately at all times, this includes but is not limited to social media.

9. Three Ambassadors will be chosen by the Community-Based interview Board based upon criteria listed below.
10. The 2017 Ambassadors must be available during the Texas Mushroom Festival to promote the festival as outlined in the “*Requirements of Participation*” stated herein below.

Scholarship Information

Upon providing proof of enrollment into an institution of post-secondary education within 2 years of being selected as an ambassador of this scholarship, each ambassador will be awarded a \$2,000 scholarship.

No ambassador may be eligible for subsequent contests which fall under the Sheri E. Austin/Sunny Clouser/Ralph E. Cole Memorial Scholarship program.

Three 2017 Ambassadors will be chosen by the community-based interview board (CBIB). The CBIB will be comprised of no less than three and no more than five representatives from Madison County 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 three candidates as the 2017 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 two (2) letters of recommendation from a teacher, counselor or advisor of a leadership organization (20%)
- II. **Civic Involvement:** Using submitted application and 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:** Applicants 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 with 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, personal interests, 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

September 8, 2017 – Application packets including TMF Ambassador's Search Application, Two Letters of Recommendation, copies of school transcripts, along with a 3"x5" (black/white or color) photo of applicant are due by 4:00 p.m. to one of the following: Texas Mushroom Festival Ambassador Search, PO Box 695, Madisonville, TX 77864-0695 or in person to Cynthia Kyle or Linda Clinton at Madisonville High School or Jane Dill at North Zulch High School.

Saturday, September 16, 2017 – Applicants will sign in at Madisonville High School, 811-A South May, Madisonville, TX 77864 at 10:00 A.m. and begin the interview process. Applicants will be expected to wear appropriate attire for the interview process and stay throughout the process until every candidate has been interviewed. The top three applicants will be announced at the conclusion of the interview process and become the 2017 Texas Mushroom Festival Ambassadors. The TMF Ambassadors will promote the festival at various events throughout their term of one (1) year, as outlined in the "*Requirements of Participation*" stated herein below and to attend ALL required events outlined in the "*Requirements of Participation*" stated herein below or forfeit their scholarship.

Requirements of Participation

The 2017 Ambassadors must promote the festival and attend ALL required events outlined below as determined by the Texas Mushroom Festival Board:

Saturday or Sunday, September 23 – 24, 2017 – Texas Reds Festival

Saturday, October 7, 2017 – Huntsville's Fair on the Square

Friday, October 13, 2017 – TMF Gala Dinner at 6 PM

Saturday, October 14, 2017 – Texas Mushroom Festival Activities from 8 AM until 5 PM

Saturday, December 2, 2017 – Madison County Chamber of Commerce Lighted Christmas Parade

FAILURE TO MEET ALL OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF PARTICIPATION WILL RESULT IN FORFEITURE OF SCHOLARSHIP

I have read the “Requirements of Participation” stated herein governing the Texas Mushroom Festival’s Ambassador’s search and if selected as an ambassador, I will be available to promote the festival as outlined herein. I understand and acknowledge by my signature below that my failure to attend ALL required events as outlined above will result in FORFEITURE of my scholarship.

2017 Texas Mushroom Festival Ambassador Search Contest Application

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____
E-mail Address: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____
Parent/Guardian's Phone Number: _____

Applicant's Date of Birth: _____

High School: _____
High School Class of: _____

Please be thorough, yet concise!

Please list extracurricular activities, honors, hobbies, and interests:

Please list and briefly describe community, school, and church involvement.

Describe your educational and career goals.

Why are you entering the Texas Mushroom Festival Ambassador's Search Contest?

FALSIFICATION OF APPLICATION INFORMATION WILL RESULT IN DEISQUALIFICATION.

I have read the qualification requirement governing the Texas Mushroom Festival's Ambassador's Search Contest and wish to be an applicant. If selected as an ambassador, I will be available to promote the festival as outlined in the qualification requirements. **Failure to attend required events will lead to the forfeiture of the scholarship award.**

Photo Release Policy

I understand that my signature below acknowledges my consent to this photo release policy. I hereby grant the Texas Mushroom Festival permission to use my photograph in any and all of its publications, including but not limited to website entries, without payment or any other consideration. I understand and agree that these materials will become the property of the Texas Mushroom Festival and will not be returned. I hereby irrevocably authorize the Texas Mushroom Festival to edit, alter, copy, exhibit, publish, or distribute this photo for purposes of publicizing the Texas Mushroom Festival's programs or any other lawful purpose. In addition, I waive the right to inspect or approve the finished product, including written or electronic copy. Additionally, I waive any right to royalties or other compensation arising or related to the use of the photograph. I hereby hold harmless and release and forever discharge the Texas Mushroom Festival for all claims, demands, and causes of action which I, my heirs, representatives, executors, administrators, or any other persons acting in or on my behalf or on behalf of my estate have or may have by reason of this authorization.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please submit this application form, along with a 3"x5" photo (black/white or color) of applicant to any of the following: Texas Mushroom Festival Ambassador Search, P.O. Box 695, Madisonville, Texas, 77864-0695 or in person to Jane Dill at North Zulch High School or in person to Cynthia Kyle / Linda Clinton at Madisonville High School (contact information listed below) by **September 8, 2017 by 4:00 pm.**

2016 Texas Mushroom Festival Ambassador Search Coordinators:

Jane Dill

E-mail — fccla@nzisd.org

School - 936-399-1030

Cell - 979-255-1125

Cynthia Kyle

ckyle@madisonvillecisd.org

936-348-2721 ext. 17 (School)

936-714-7818 (Cell)

Linda Clinton

lclinton@madisonvillecisd.org

936-348-2721 ext. 17 (School)

936-581-2073 (Cell)