

## Summer Activity Fair – TAGT Presentation on Summer Scholarships

On Saturday January 26<sup>th</sup> 2008, the Associations for the Gifted and Talented in Hurst-Euless-Bedford, Birdville, and Keller ISDs sponsored a Summer Activity Fair presenting summer opportunities for elementary and secondary students.

The Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented hosted a presentation on TAGT Summer Scholarships. Robert Thompson (TAGT Secretary/Treasurer) gave an overview of the scholarships and application process, and Linda Foster (GT Specialist, Spring Garden Elementary, HEB) presented tips for creating quality applications.

TAGT Summer Scholarships are awarded to students who wish to attend summer programs/camps with an academic or artistic focus. There is no formal list of acceptable programs; all programs listed in [Insights](#) (see below) are acceptable, but a student is not restricted to only those programs.

As well as the TAGT Summer Scholarships, a number of other scholarships are available for award to deserving students. Applications for all scholarships can be found [here](#).

Click [here](#) for the Summer Scholarship FAQ.

### Insights 2008

Visit the [Insights 2008](#) section of the TAGT website for complete information about the scholarships, application process, and summer programs.

### Deadlines and Important Dates

Application deadline is March 1, 2008. All applicants will be notified of their status by April 15, 2008. Scholarship winners must complete and return the necessary paperwork by June 15, 2008 or the award will be forfeited.

Applicants who are awarded a scholarship will be notified by letter.

Applicants who are not awarded scholarships will also be notified by letter, usually by April 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Applications

General application instructions are available [here](#).

Competition for the scholarships is high. In 2007, 311 applications were submitted and only 73 were awarded. Linda Foster stressed the importance of submitting *quality* applications that are *memorable*. A panel of three readers will evaluate each application and score it on an 8-point rubric. See the rubric [here](#) (once page is launched, scroll down to see rubric).

### Tips for Students

The application requires indicating which summer program you have applied, or intend to apply, to. State why you want to attend a particular program and why you chose it over other programs. Don't be generic, as in "I want to have fun" or "make new friends".

Emphasize your passions, accomplishments, and motivations.

Stay within the framework of the application, e.g., don't include samples, products, or extra pages.

Carefully choose who you ask to write your recommendation. Make sure they are specific about examples of your strengths.

Give your recommendation writer *plenty* of time.

Make your application *memorable*.

### **Tips for Parents**

All of the applicants are gifted/talented and most are excellent students. Be sure to include *specific* information and avoid information or comments that are too generic.

Include information about your child's hobbies and interests, projects and extracurricular activities.

Include supporting evidence of your child's strengths, including historical information and information outside the school environment.

Make your child sound well-rounded.

Evaluators are more interested in your child's interests and personality than lists of awards.

Once the application is complete, review it with the 8-point evaluator rubric in mind. Is it an 8?

### **The Most Important Part of the Application**

The Professional Recommendation is the most important part of the application.

Be careful who you pick. It could be a teacher (current or from the past), a family friend, a neighbor, someone from church, but it should be someone who knows your child well.

Make sure the person who makes the recommendation includes what makes your child deserving of a TAGT scholarship.

The recommendation should paint a very clear picture of your child and should state specific examples.

### **TAGT Sponsor**

Applications must be submitted with the signature of a TAGT sponsor. Many G/T teachers/specialist are TAGT members. If not, contact the school district and ask for the District G/T Coordinator.

### **Contacting TAGT**

If you have questions or comments, please contact your [TAGT Regional Director](#), or the TAGT [office](#).

## **LINKS**

Scholarship Applications

<http://tagt.affiniscape.com/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=148#IndividualScholarshipApps>

TAGT Summer Scholarship FAQ

<http://www.txgifted.org/associations/6225/files/Scholarship%20FAQ.pdf>

Insights2008

<http://www.txgifted.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=148>

General Application Instructions

<http://tagt.affiniscape.com/associations/6225/files/InsightsInstructions2008.pdf>

Scoring Rubric

*(Scroll down page after it is launched)*

<http://tagt.affiniscape.com/associations/6225/files/InsightsInstructions2008.pdf>

For the TAGT Regional Office

<http://tagt.affiniscape.com/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=105>

For the TAGT Regional Director

<http://tagt.affiniscape.com/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=105>