

SAVE TIME. APPLY ON-LINE! [WWW.FRED.ORG/LTL.HTML](http://WWW.FRED.ORG/LTL.HTML)

**Deadline: December 11, 2009.** All students who apply must be available to travel and stay in Washington, D.C., April 11-16, 2010. Please note that in order for an application to be eligible, all components must be included and received (not postmarked) by the deadline. All candidates must supply the following materials to the FRED office by December 11, 2009:

- 1.) Completed application form; 2.) Letter of recommendation from nominating telephone company (must be an OPASTCO member); and 3.) Essay (see below) **Do Not staple applications--please use paperclips!**

Nominating OPASTCO Telephone Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Company Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Company Contact E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Company Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of High School Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ Class rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Activities (use separate page if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been to Washington, D.C. before?    Yes    No

By signing this application, you and your parents acknowledge that you will be flying unaccompanied to/from your home and Washington, D.C.

Applicant's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**ABOUT THE ESSAY** Please note that the essay is the most significant portion of the application. Each applicant is required to respond to the three questions listed below. Essays must be neatly typed, double-spaced, and contain no more than 1,000 words total. Essays will be evaluated on the following criteria: 1.) originality in approach and treatment of the topics; 2.) clarity and effectiveness of style; 3.) organization of the essay; and 4.) technical accuracy (spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc.).


**Essay Questions (Please provide complete answers for ALL three questions)**

- 1.) Why should you be chosen for the 2010 Leadership Through Learning program?
- 2.) Please describe a problem you faced (at school, home, in an organization or in your community) in the past and how you overcame obstacles to find a solution.
- 3.) Imagine you are meeting someone for the first time. Describe yourself to include your personality, likes/dislikes and how you spend your free time.

Applications **MUST** be received (not postmarked) by December 11, 2009.  
 Send applications and additional materials to: **FRED Leadership Through Learning Committee, 21 Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20036**

Please direct any questions regarding the application process to Haley Smit, FRED's Program Coordinator, at 202/659-5990 or [hes@opastco.org](mailto:hes@opastco.org). For more information on this program or to download additional applications, visit [www.fred.org](http://www.fred.org).



**Sponsored in part by:** 

FRED and the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) are teaming up to provide rural students the learning opportunity of a lifetime. The Leadership Through Learning program provides a hands-on approach to education. High school juniors and seniors from across the U.S. are invited to spend an all expense-paid week in our nation's capital to learn about government, civic affairs and telecommunications regulation, as well as to meet students their own age from all parts of the country. This year, the program takes place from April 11-16, 2010, in Washington, D.C.



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**NEW THIS YEAR: APPLY ON-LINE! [WWW.FRED.ORG](http://WWW.FRED.ORG)**



**ABOUT THE PROGRAM** The youth of today will soon be the leaders of tomorrow. The Foundation for Rural Education and Development (FRED) and the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA), recognizing the importance of providing educational opportunities to our future leaders, have created the Leadership Through Learning (LTL) program. Students are selected to visit Washington, D.C., to learn about government, civic affairs, and telecommunications, as well as to meet students their own age from all parts of the country. The program is open to any high school junior or senior who lives or attends school within the service area of an OPASTCO telephone company member. Approximately 10-15 students will be selected by FRED to receive scholarships to this program in 2010.



**CURRICULUM** Students will observe the federal government at work, witness the development of public policy and explore the roles of citizens, lawmakers, experts, associations and businesses in the world's most successful democracy. This program takes students behind the scenes of our nation's capital for seminars and discussions featuring members of Congress, Presidential appointees, journalists and other Washington insiders. Students will participate in seminars, attend lectures, and visit national monuments and Capitol Hill. FRED partners with an organizer with 30 years experience hosting youth programs. Students selected by FRED will be among a larger group of approximately 200 students.

**ELIGIBILITY** This program is open to high school juniors and seniors who live in the service area or attend high school that is served by a nominating OPASTCO telephone company member. Eligible candidates cannot have participated in this program in the past. Each OPASTCO telephone company may nominate a maximum of three students. Consideration for this program is on a first-come, first-served basis. If multiple applications from one telco's service area are submitted, only the first three complete applications will be considered. Students who would like to participate in the program need to be aware that they must:

- 1.) have a "B" average or higher, OR rank in the top 25 percent of their class;
- 2.) show commitment to community or school involvement through participation in extra curricular activities;
- 3.) be available to arrive in Washington, D.C., on Sunday, April 11, 2010, and are required to stay until Friday, April 16, 2010 (sorry, no exceptions to these dates); and
- 4.) adhere to dress codes set by FRED to include business casual attire for the majority of the week.



will evaluate the applications according to the criteria listed below:

- 1.) quality of essay;
- 2.) scholastic standing;
- 3.) community involvement;
- 4.) leadership ability; and
- 5.) letter of recommendation from the nominating OPASTCO telco member.

**COST** All costs associated with this program are funded entirely by FRED. Scholarships for this program are valued at \$2,000 per student and include airfare, ground transportation, lodging, meals and entrance fees for activities. The students who are selected and their nominating telcos are only required to supply the specified documentation that will enable the selection committee to adequately evaluate each applicant.

**IF YOU ARE CHOSEN** The selection committee will contact the students chosen in January. Students must then provide confirmation that they will take part in the program. FRED will also notify two alternates who may participate in the event that a cancellation occurs. Upon request, FRED will provide all students with proper documentation to supply to their school's administration offices for the days they will be absent due to the trip.

**DURING THE PROGRAM WEEK** The program week is very structured and allows for no outside planned activities. Students may not leave the hotel to visit with friends or family members who may live in the D.C.-area. Additionally, students will not have an opportunity to leave the program to tour colleges in D.C. Students will have no access to exercise facilities at the hotel even for athletes who must keep up with a training regimen. However, students have busy schedules that require lots of walking, so physical activity will be part of the curriculum.

**GETTING TO WASHINGTON, D.C.** Each student selected will be contacted individually about transportation details. FRED will provide the most economical, yet reasonable, means of transportation to Washington, D.C. As a result, students who normally use local airports may be required to travel to a larger airport in order to take advantage of less expensive airfare. During the week of the program, students will be supervised at all times by program leaders and the FRED staff.