



**TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS
TASC TOP PROJECTS COMPETITION**

High School

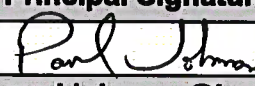
Middle Level

ENTRY COVER SHEET

PLEASE INDICATE:

THIS IS AN INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL PROJECT.

THIS IS A COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL PROJECT.

School Name submitting the application	School Address:
Vista Ridge High School	200 S Vista Ridge Blvd.
School City/State/Zip:	Size of Community(ies):
Austin, Texas 78717	82, 000
Advisor Name:	Advisor E-Mail:
Michelle Maupin	michelle.maupin@leanderisd.org
Principal Name:	Principal Signature & Email Address
Paul Johnson	 paul.johnson@leanderisd.org
School UIL Classification:	
6A	
Project Name:	Project Dates:
Celebrating 20 Years of Being Difference Makers	April 2022 - February 2023
Total Number of Students in Council(s):	Number of Members Involved In Project:
200	200
Total Number of Students Enrolled In School(s):	Number of Other Students Involved In Project:
2.6 K	2.6 K invited to participate
Total Number of Faculty employed in School(s):	Number of Faculty Involved In Project:
200	200
Number of Community Groups Involved In Project	Number of Community Members Involved In Project
17	2,100 were invited to participate

THIS INFORMATION MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE. THE TASC WEBSITE DOES NOT ACCEPT GOOGLE DOCS.

This application must be submitted online via the TASC website.
 Upload photos, newspaper articles, etc. **Scan all pages into one document and upload for judging.**
 Please upload one good jpeg of the project separately.

Please consider submitting a proposal for a table talk (HS) on your project at the high school conference or for a breakout at the Middle Level Conference for extra points. You must apply to do that.

Top Projects Rating Sheet (for judges only) Councils may want this as a reference.

School Name in	1 Not Met	2	3 Met	4	5 Exceeds
Project Meets Objective					
Amount of Involvement: Council					
Amount of Involvement: Student(s)					
Amount of Involvement: Other School Organizations					
Amount of Involvement: Teachers					
Amount of Involvement: Community					
Originality					
Overall Results: Students					
Overall Results: Faculty/Community					
Project relative to school/community size					
Submitted proposal for presentation at conference					
Evaluation Score Subtotals					

Total Evaluation Score _____

For Collaborative Project, list contact information for all councils involved.

School Name	School Mailing Address (Include zip code)	Advisor Name	Advisor Email Address

Project Award Name: Celebrating Twenty Years of Being Difference Makers

Purpose & Objectives: Vista Ridge is celebrating its 20 years of being an educational facility. As a result, our Student Council made it a goal to highlight 20 years of being a difference maker which has always been a constant motto of our high school since its conception. Our objective was to accomplish 20 “Difference Making Projects” affecting our community & school, to commemorate our 20th year!

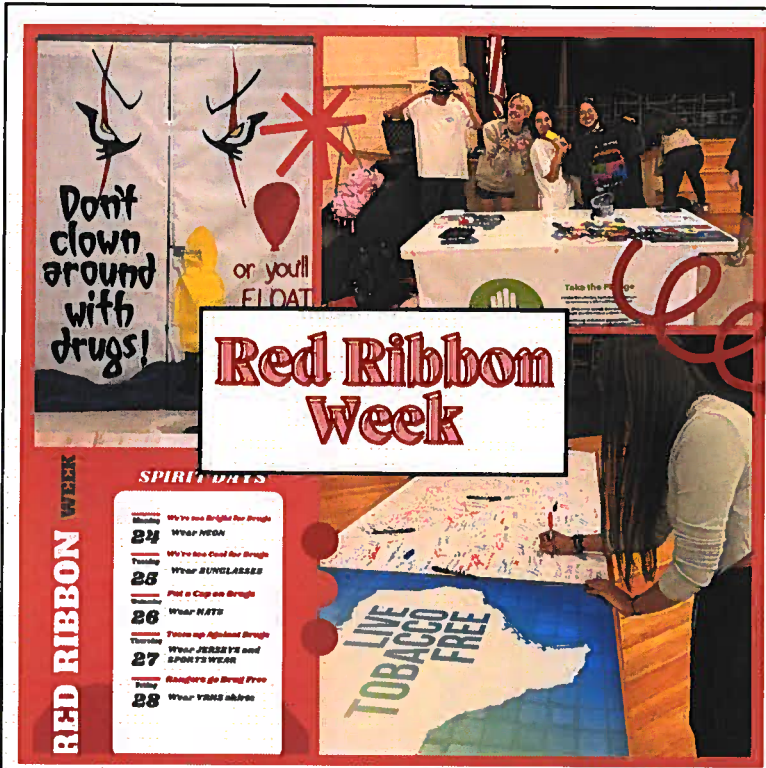
Media: Publicized through Instagram and Twitter

Groups partnered with: American Cancer Society, Travis County Human & Health Services, Make A Wish, Socks For The Sole, Hill Country Ministry’s Food Banks, City of Cedar Park, Carry the Load, LISD Elementary, Cedar Park Police, Jr. League of Austin, Dell Children’s Hospital, Sundance Memory Care Nursing Home, Austin Humane Society, Teens in the Driver Seat, Carry the Load, Linus Connection, Ryan’s Case For Smiles

Our 20 Projects:

1. **Paws for a Cause:** recycled T Shirts making them into dog toys and donating them to a local animal shelter (Austin Humane Society). A total of Fifty handmade dog toys and seventy tennis balls were donated.
2. **Coats for Kids:** Partnered with Junior League of Austin and recycled gently used or new coats given to our community to support low income families in winter (total: 36 coats)
3. **Nursing Home Notes:** Partnered with our feeder middle school (Henry Middle) and created Valentine Cards for an area nursing home.. Sundance Memory Care
4. **Veterans Day Ceremony:** gift bags to honor Vets, led Wall of Honor for veterans, made cards, and raised \$1, 405 for Carry the Load to help Veterans in need.
5. **9-11 day of Service:** Collected 135 care bags of toiletries (combs, toothbrush/paste, deodorant, etc) worth about 1,400 in monetary goods donated to Travis County Health & Human Services.
6. **Cedar Park Eggstravaganza:** Partnered with the City Cedar Park community egg hunt.
7. **Uvalde Response:** Sept 6, we along with our district, wore maroon/white to show our solidarity with Uvalde on their first day back @ school. Tangibly we also encouraged our members to submit letters that went directly to our governor about their concerns for school safety
8. **Elementary Carnivals:** Partnered with Faubion and Reed elementary carnivals
9. **Red Ribbon week:** The theme was Celebrate Life, and Live Drug Free. The Activities were a door décor contest; Drug simulation activities w/ student body of conditions under the influence; handing out drug free promotions and ribbons; Dress up days; Social media posts
10. **Mental Health Awareness Week:** partnered with our Counselors with various activities to bring awareness creating posters, connecting with puzzles, and positive announcements.
11. **Linus Connection:** partnering in piecing together quilts for children in hospitals
12. **Kick Cancer Week:** created a cancer drive that collected \$2,086 donated to the American Cancer Society, Pass the Boot, Cancer Awareness Bulletin Board, Pillowcase Cancer Donation.
13. **Make a Wish:** a donation drive was created and we did Easter bunny pictures raising \$2,086
14. **Socks for the Sole:** collected & donated 190 cases of socks for the homeless of Austin
15. **Turkey Dinners:** Student Council supported 8 low income families @ our school providing an entire feast for their Thanksgiving Holidays
16. **Blue Santa:** toy drive and making of cookies to sell with proceeds to Blue Santa. School raised \$3,320 and collected 126 toys. Partnered with Cedar Park High and Cedar Park Police.
17. **Food Drive:** Collected & donated 684 lbs of food to Hill Country Ministries Food Bank.
18. **Cards for Kids:** Partnered with our feeder middle school (Henry Middle) and created Valentine Cards, Easter Cards, and general cards for Dell Children’s Hospital.
19. **Trunk or Treat:** organized a Safe community event that attracted close to 1,000 trick or treaters
20. **Teacher Appreciation Week:** Honoring our teachers through donated prize drawings, meals, snacks, & notes collected by student council officers... we created a fantastic week for teachers!

Photos!





Vista Ridge High School

A DESTINATION SCHOOL IN

LEANDER  ISD
LEADING TO A BRIGHT FUTURE

February 15, 2023

Texas Association of Student Councils

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Patrick Peabody, and I have the privilege of being one of the assistant principals at Vista Ridge High School in Leander ISD. I wanted to write to you to express my appreciation regarding an amazing project our student council undertook this year. They took to heart that this is the 20th anniversary of the opening of Vista Ridge High School and wanted to do something special for our educational community with the theme of being a "Difference Maker." This has been and continues to be an important phrase on our campus and an integral part of our culture. Our student council moved forward with a plan of accomplishing 20 "Difference Making Projects."

Our student council loves partnering with our feeder elementary schools, especially working on their campus carnivals. Our student council also partnered with the City of Cedar Park for a community egg hunt, the Cedar Park Eggstravaganza. They also worked to raise \$2086 for the Make a Wish foundation taking bunny pictures.

Our student council undertook a project recycling t-shirts and making them into dog toys to donate to a local animal shelter, Austin Humane Society. On September 6th student council wore maroon and white in solidarity with Uvalde and encouraged other students and staff to do the same. Student council also wrote and encouraged others to write to the governor about school safety concerns. Participating in the 9-11 day of Service, student council members collected 135 bags of toiletries to donate to Travis County Health and Human Services.

Vista Ridge Student Council then led the school during Red Ribbon Week with a door decorating contest, social media posts, dress up days, drug simulation and under the influence activities, as well as drug free ribbons and promotions. They then collected \$1405 for the Carry the Load charity for veterans in need as well as collecting gift bags to honor our campus veterans and created a Wall of Honor as they participated in the Veterans Day assembly at the Ridge.

For Cancer Awareness in October, the Vista Ridge Student Council collected \$2,086 for the American Cancer Society as well as leading "Kick Cancer" themed activities around campus. Later in the month they organized and ran Trunk or Treat as a community safe event that was attended by more than 1,000 trick or treaters.

With cold weather approaching, they partnered with the Junior League of Austin to collect coats to support low-income families in the area. Student council was also able to collect and donate 190 cases of socks for the homeless of Austin through Socks for the Sole. Eight low-income families were also supported with an entire feast for their Thanksgiving holidays.

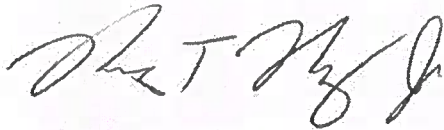
The Blue Santa toy drive was in full swing with the holidays approaching. Partnering with the Cedar Park Police department, Vista Ridge and Cedar Park High School had a friendly competition to see who could raise the most for the toy drive. The Vista Ridge student council outraised Cedar Park High School with \$3,320 and collected 126 toys for kids at Christmastime. They were also able to collect 684 lbs. of food for Hill Country Ministries Food Bank.

The high school student council partnered with our feeder middle school, Henry Middle School to create Valentine's, Easter, and general use greeting cards for Dell Children's Hospital. They also worked together to create Valentine's cards to donate to an area nursing home. Vista's student council also worked with the Linus Connection piecing together quilts for children in hospitals.

Partnering with our school counseling staff, student council created various activities to heighten awareness during Mental Health Week. They also did a fantastic job making our teachers and staff feel the love during Teacher Appreciation Week, honoring teachers with donated prizes, meals, snacks, and handwritten notes.

This year I am once again in awe of all that our student council does for our campus and community. The planning, execution, and sheer energy needed to pull off not a few, but all 20 of these activities! These activities are not just memorable but work to build a strong sense of community. The attention that is given to supporting various causes and raising awareness is admirable. The Vista Ridge Student Council has once again lived out the vision of the Texas Association of Student Councils by creating new leaders who positively impact our campus and entire educational community. The lessons they learn and messages they carry will be with them for the rest of their lives. At Vista Ridge High School we celebrate "Difference Makers" throughout the year during announcements, with special lunches, and with certificates, it is a fundamental part of Ranger Culture. Students and staff at the Ridge have lived this culture for the 20 years of its existence. This year our student council has truly celebrated "Twenty Years of Being Difference Makers," with its 20 projects throughout the year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Patrick T. Peabody, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Patrick T. Peabody, Jr.
Assistant Principal
Vista Ridge High School