



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.



<b>School Name submitting the application.</b>	<b>School Address:</b>
Vista Ridge High School	200 S Vista Ridge Blvd
<b>School City/State/Zip:</b>	<b>Size of Community(ies):</b>
Cedar Park, TX 78613	82,000
<b>Advisor Name:</b>	<b>Advisor E-Mail:</b>
Christina Pape	christina.pape@leanderisd.org
<b>Principal Name:</b>	<b>Principal Signature &amp; Email Address</b>
Keith Morgan	 Keith.morgan@leanderisd.org
<b>School UIL Classification:</b>	
6A	
<b>Project Name:</b>	<b>Project Dates:</b>
One Vista Ridge CommUNITY	September 2023 - February 2024
<b>Total Number of Students in Council(s):</b>	<b>Number of Members Involved in the Project:</b>
200	200
<b>Total Number of Students Enrolled in School(s):</b>	<b>Number of Other Students Involved in Project:</b>
2.6 K	3.0 K invited to participate
<b>Total Number of Faculty employed in School(s):</b>	<b>Number of Faculty Involved in Project:</b>
200	200
<b>Number of Community Groups Involved in Project</b>	<b>Number of Community Members Involved in Project</b>
26	Over 5,000 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.

Updated August 2023

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: One Vista Ridge CommUNITY**

**Purpose & Objectives:** This year our student council focused on community with an emphasis on unity to bring people, organizations, and businesses together because we understand that in a community people should help each other out, and have close relations. Our objective was to create projects that close the gap between people, organizations, and businesses through our four recognition committees.

**Media:** Publicized and advertised through Instagram, Facebook, posters around the school, and our school's weekly newsletter (s'mores)

**Groups partnered with:** LISD Clothes Closet, Cedar Park Teen Court, Round Rock Serving Center, Zilker Park Botanical Garden, Miracle League Baseball, Austin Creative Reuse, Leander Public Library, YMCA of Central Texas, Mobile Loaves and Fishes St Margaret's Truck, Teens Take Initiative, Friends of Los Ninos, Traditions Health, Key Club, Cancer Club, Asian Student Association, Cedar Park K-Pop Dance Group, Ranger Lion Dance Club/Heavenly Dragon Lion Dance Association, Sonyashnyk, Korean Culture Club, Ukraine Club, Nrityawave, ESL Ambassadors, Dell's Children Hospital, Cedar Park Firefighters, EVERFI, Coats for Kids, Stiles NJHS

## **Descriptions:**

### **Community Service**

**Community Service Fair** - Students were invited to attend the community service fair, where they could learn about unique service opportunities and organizations our community offers. We contacted many organizations in our area so they could advertise their volunteering opportunities to our students.

**Culture Day** - Our students, local middle, and elementary schools were invited to attend Culture Day. Culture Day was a fun way for parents and students to come teach other members of the student body and community about their culture through decorated presentations, traditional food, clothing, dancing, etc.

### **DASH**

**Drunk Driving Awareness Campaign** - Our council aimed to raise awareness about the alarming issue of alcohol-related motor vehicle accidents, the leading cause of teenage fatalities in the United States. In partnership with EVERFI, students completed a 2 hour course, containing information about Alcohol Safety, saying no to peer pressure and more.

**Red Ribbon Chain** - During Red Ribbon Week, D.A.S.H. members guided students to write their names, and a reason why they chose to stay drug-free on red paper. Afterwards, the paper strips were connected on a chain, and hung up in an area with high traffic, hoping to encourage other students to stay drug-free.

### **Energy and Environmental**

**Trunk or Treat Cleanup** - Trunk or treat is an event our school hosts annually where people fill their trunks with candy and local kids come and trick or treat from the trunks of the cars. This ends up leaving loads of trash from candy wrappers on the ground. Our committee made efforts to clean up afterwards to ensure our community was not left with trash and litter on the grounds of our school.

**Coats for Kids** - We collected around 100 new or gently used winter coats from our students and donated them to our local Jack Brown Cleaners to then be donated to Coats for Kids, a local Austin organization, dedicated to helping clothe children in the Austin area for the winter.

### **Pride and Patriotism**

**Holiday Cards for Kids** - Our members were asked to write heart-warming handmade cards to spread cheer to children in Dell Children's Hospital during the holiday season. To deliver the cards, officers along with our advisors, drove to Dell Children's Hospital and dropped them off at the front desk of the hospital.

**9/11 Firefighter Notes** - Our council publicized to our students to write 3 notes each for their local firefighters in the Cedar Park-Austin area. These notes were delivered on 9/11 to show our appreciation for all the work firefighters have done for both in times of crisis like 9/11 as well as their commitment to our community now.

Updated August 2023



## Photos!





# Vista Ridge High School

A DESTINATION SCHOOL IN **LEANDER**  **ISD**  
LEADING TO A BRIGHT FUTURE

February 7, 2024

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 wanted to focus on bringing people together, helping each other out, and to become better versions of themselves with the theme of Vista Ridge CommUNITY. Our student council wanted to develop closer relationships with the people, organizations, and businesses in our local community. Amongst smaller projects throughout the year, Student Council chose to focus on eight big projects: Community Service Fair, Culture Day, Holiday Cards for Kids, 9/11 Firefighter Notes, Coats for Kids, Trunk or Treat Cleanup, Drunk Driving Awareness, and Red Ribbon Chain. Each of these projects came from a different recognition committee but all help our community at school, neighborhood, or society.

To start the year, our VR Student Council members wanted to show appreciation to our firefighters and acknowledge how important they are to our community and safety. Student Council members were encouraged to write 3 notes of appreciation for firefighters. The Student Council Pride and Patriotism leaders and advisors drove the notes to the local fire station to be passed out. This delivery occurred on September 11<sup>th</sup> as part of Vista Ridge's recognition of 9/11.

For Red Ribbon Week in October, committee members set up a table during lunches to educate the student body about Red Ribbon Week and the harmful effects of drug use on themselves and the community. Then students were encouraged to write a reason why they stay drug free on the provided paper strips. After collecting responses, student council members stapled the paper strips together to make a chain that was then hung up in a high visibility area of the hallway as a symbol of the strength of our community to stay drug free.

Student Council members also went above and beyond to help keep our community clean by organizing a cleanup after Vista Ridge's annual Trunk or Treat. Trunk or Treat is important to the community as a safe place for children to come for Halloween. The vast numbers of families and children does tend to leave a mess, so our Student Council stepped up and made sure that the area was clean, and trash picked up. This also involved coordinating with other student organizations in our VR community for the pickup.

In November, the Vista Ridge Student Council wanted to introduce more students to the various volunteer opportunities available around the community. They hosted a Community Service Fair and invited students to learn about what the different organizations did and how volunteers could help. A total of 19 community service organizations showed up to share how they could help parents and students give back to the community. It also allowed these amazing organizations to connect with and get to know the students of Vista Ridge.

As the weather turned colder, the Vista Ridge Student Counsel reached out to Ranger Nation to donate new or gently used coats for children in the community. They collected around 100 winter coats to be donated to the local Jack Brown Cleaners to be sent to Coats for Kids. It was a great effort to help those in the community that are often hit worst with the winter weather.

In December, children stayed on the minds of our Student Council members, and they wanted to reach out to kids who may be in the hospital during the holidays and feeling disconnected. Student Council members wrote almost four dozen handmade cards to spread cheer to the children at Dell Children's Hospital. These cards were colorful and joyful, filled with pictures and jokes. The cards were delivered and greeted with laughter with their cheesy puns and cute animal designs.

Returning from the Winter Break our Student Council members work hard to create and hold our first Culture Day at the Ridge. Students from local elementary, middle schools, and our high schools were invited to participate and with parents' help to teach our students and community about different cultures. There were decorated presentations, traditional foods, clothing, toys, dancing, singing, and more. Families had a great time learning about other cultures and experiencing some of what they had to offer.

Finally, Student Council wanted to raise awareness about the number of motor vehicle accidents, which is a leading cause of teenage fatalities in the US. The committee members really wanted to focus in on drunk driving and how it affected our community. Vista Ridge Students partnered with EVER FI to release the Alcohol EDU program. The program allowed students to complete a two-hour course containing information about alcohol safety, saying no to peers, and more. The hope was to create a safer driving environment for our students and community.

Our Vista Ridge Student Council member have once again left me amazed at all that they do for our campus and CommUNITY! They continue to shine at planning, organizing, and putting on these great programs for our students and families. Our Student Council members continue to build on the traditions of community of Vista Ridge and show why our community means so much to us. The breadth of causes and awareness they tackle in admirable. The Vista Ridge Student Council continues to live out the vision of the Texas Association of Student Councils by creating new leaders who positively impact our campus and our entire community. The lessons they learn and messages that they carry will be with them for the rest of their lives. I am confident these Vista Ridge Student Council members will continue to build commUNITY wherever life takes them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark 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