



## HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE LEVEL

## 2024-2025 TOP PROJECTS AWARD

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TASC recognizes the most outstanding projects by local HS and ML councils each year. Student councils may submit their best projects using the format outlined below. Submissions will be judged by a committee chaired by the TASC Parliamentarian School. This competition is open to all member schools. There are two categories: individual council projects and collaborative council projects (projects amongst two or more school student councils).

- Up to ten individual council awards will be presented to high school councils. Collaborative schools submitting award-winning projects will be given a plaque for up to four schools.
- Up to five individual council awards will be presented to middle-level councils. Collaborative schools submitting award-winning projects will be given a plaque for up to four schools.

### ENTRY RULES FOR COMPETITION

1. Entries must be submitted via the TASC website and completed in one sitting. You may print this form and use it as a guide.
2. NAME of project  
PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES (What were you trying to accomplish with the project?)  
BRIEF DESCRIPTION of the activities. Attach up to one page (12 pt. font, double-spaced) explaining the purpose/objectives and a description of the project.  
DESCRIPTION OF INVOLVEMENT with: (to be noted on the form.)

a) student council members	d) faculty
b) other students	e) community
c) other school organizations	f) other student councils
3. The entry must be accompanied by a signed evaluation by at least one teacher, administrator, or staff member other than the submitting student council advisor. This may be a letter, a survey, etc.
4. The entry may include up to five photographs.
5. Councils may submit up to one individual Top Project entry and one collaborative Top Project entry per year.
6. An advisor must upload all entries to the TASOnline.org website. Once you have submitted your online application, you will receive an email from TASC confirming receipt of your application. (The TASC website does not accept Google Docs.)
7. Winning entries will receive an award determined by the TASC Board of Directors. Councils applying for award-winning projects will receive a plaque. Additional schools listed in collaborative project award winners will receive a certificate.
8. You are asked to submit contact information for every council involved in a collaborative project.
9. Number of awards: Individual – up to 10 HS, up to 5 ML; Collaborative – up to 3 at HS, and up to 1 ML

**JUDGING CRITERIA:**

1. How well does the project meet objectives?	0-5
2. Amount of involvement in preparation with:	
a) the council(s)	0-5
b) the student(s)	0-5
c) other school organizations	0-5
d) teachers	0-5
e) community	0-5
3. Originality of project idea	0-5
4. Overall results and success from the standpoint of:	
a) student body participation/reaction	0-5
b) faculty/community participation/reaction	0-5
5. Consideration of the circumstances of the project as it relates to the size (number) of the school(s)/community(ies)/group(s), etc..	0-5
6. Evaluation(s) received	0-5

**TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS 55**

Point totals will select the finalists from all outstanding project submissions. The committee will then determine award winners based on originality and innovation.

**SUBMISSION DEADLINES DIFFER FOR MIDDLE-LEVEL AND HIGH SCHOOL. SEE THE WEBSITE FOR ENTRY DEADLINES.**



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	77,000
<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	
<b>School UIL Classification:</b>	keith.morgan@leanderisd.org
6A	
<b>Project Name:</b>	<b>Project Dates:</b>
Rebuilding our Community	September 2024 - February 2025
<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	3K 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>
23	Over 5,000 people 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 July 2024

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

School Name	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

Updated July 2024

## **Project Award Name: Rebuilding Our Community**

**Purpose and Objective:** This year, our student council focused on rebuilding our community and emphasizing the importance of growth and forming connections within our school and community. With our school being under construction, we realized this was a great opportunity to parallel that in rebuilding relationships and strengthening collaboration. Our objective was to develop projects aimed at mending and building stronger relationships among students, staff, organizations, and businesses, through our four recognition committees, in order to reflect our vision of a more unified community.

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

**Groups partnered with:** VRTV News, NHS, Key Club, Korean Culture Club, Asian Student Association, Cedar Park K-Pop Dance Group, Ranger Lion Dance Club/Heavenly Dragon Lion Dance Association, Sonyashnyk, Nrityawave, ESL Ambassadors, Dell's Children Hospital, UT Socks for the Sole, Coats for Kids, Stiles NJHS, Teens in the Driver's Seat, Jack's Brown Cleaners, Junior League of Austin, Henry STUCO, VRHS Cheer, VRHS Robotics, FCCLA, NAHS, NEHS

### **Descriptions:**

#### **Community Service**

**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.

**Socks for the Sole** - Vista Ridge students were asked to donate socks for the Socks for the Sole organization led by UT in Austin for the Homeless of Austin. In total, we donated 60 pairs of socks. Each person who donated socks was given a paper ornament to write their name on and put it on our Paper Christmas Tree on our STUCO Board.

#### **DASH**

**Red Ribbon Week Decoration** - During Red Ribbon Week, D.A.S.H. leaders, STUCO members, and Key Club Members met to create decorations for the school campus. Decorations included handmade posters promoting drug-awareness, creating red bows, and making drug-free pledge signs, all to inspire the student body to have a drug-free lifestyle.

**Teens in the Driver's Seat** - In a partnership with Teens in the Driver Seat, the DASH committee set up a booth in the cafeteria and conducted interactive games about driver safety which included trivia games, puzzles, etc. The DASH committee handed out "I drive alcohol - free" bumper stickers, safe driving bracelets, and other prizes in order to increase awareness about safe driving.

#### **Energy and Environmental**

**Coats For Kids** - We collected around 25 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.

**Homecoming Parade Cleanup** - The Homecoming Parade is an event that our school hosts annually, where we're able to come as a community and celebrate. But this leads to trash, candy wrappers, and decorations left on the ground. Our committee made efforts to clean up afterwards to ensure our community was not left with trash and litter on the roads near our school.

#### **Pride and Patriotism**

**Holiday Cards For Children** - 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.

**Ranger Camp** - To successfully introduce incoming freshmen into the high school environment, StuCo volunteers and officers guided them through the departments of the school, a club fair, and the freshmen were also able to experience sitting in various classrooms while being taught about the academic departments and what to expect. With this, our new 9th graders were able to feel extra welcome and more secure in their transition!

Updated July 2024







# Vista Ridge High School

A DESTINATION SCHOOL IN



January 27, 2025

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 about an amazing project our student council undertook this year, to convey my appreciation of them and everything they do for our community, and endorse their work for a Project Award.

As our campus undergoes renovation, the Vista Ridge student council embraced the idea of rebuilding our educational community and strengthening our relationships and collaboration. Our student council's message was "Rebuilding Our Community," and focused on smaller projects that would have a big impact on our educational community. They also reached out and partnered with many different clubs and organizations to accomplish these projects. To further build our culture and emphasize these initiatives, they utilized social media, campus video announcements, weekly newsletters, and posters around campus.

I feel that I need to list their partners throughout this project as there are quite a few and very diverse: VRTV News, NHS, Key Club, Korean Culture Club, Asian Student Association, Cedar Park K-Pop Dance Group, Ranger Lion Dance Club/Heavenly Dragon Lion Dance Association, Sonyashnyk, Nriyaware, ESL Ambassadors, Dell's Children Hospital, UT Socks for the Sole, Coats for Kids, Stiles NJHS, Teens in the Driver's Seat, Jack's Brown Cleaners, Junior League of Austin, Henry MS STUCO, VRHS Cheer, VRHS Robotics, FCCLA, NAHS, NEHS.

Our student council started with our community foundation: our incoming freshmen. During Ranger Camp our volunteers showed off the campus and departments, toured various classrooms, as well as attending a club fair. This is a huge part of our campus experience so that the incoming freshmen have been introduced to campus, connect with current students, and generally feel more comfortable with their transition to high school.

Another big event is our homecoming parade, which is supported by our staff and organizations, and well attended by the community at large. One of the downsides of this parade is the trash left behind. To enable a continued sense of Ranger Pride, our student council not only supported the parade, but also led the effort to clean up afterwards. They ensured that our community did not have to deal with the trash and litter generated by the parade.

Student Council led the way with a Culture Day on our campus and invited our students, as well as the students of surrounding elementary and middle schools to attend. Parents and students were able to work together to present their culture through the use of presentations, food, clothing, and more throughout the many varied cultural booths that were set up. It was a proud moment for students to share their culture with others and have a diverse platform for other students to learn about the many different cultures represented on our campus.

As winter approached our student council representative switched gears and focused on reaching out to community members not on our campus. They worked on creating handmade cards to bring holiday cheer to children at Dell Children's Hospital. The officers delivered the cards to the hospital for distribution among the children. It was a great activity to not only bring our student council members closer together and make some memories, but also to bring a little joy to those in the hospital.

The Vista Ridge student council representatives also helped to bring in some much needed winter clothing for our community. They worked with the Socks for the Soul organization, which is led by the University of Texas for the homeless in Austin. We collected almost 60 pairs of socks from students, staff, and faculty to give to this worthy organization. Further building community, everyone who donated socks were recognized by adding ornaments with their names on them to a tree on the student council bulletin board in one of our main hallways. In addition to the sock drive, student council also worked with Jack Brown Cleaners to collect coats to donate to Coats for Kids, an organization that helps cloth children for winter in the Austin area. Our representatives collected around 25 new or gently used coats from our student body.

In the spring our student council worked with Key Club members and DASH leaders to decorate the campus for Red Ribbon Week. They created many different decorations for our campus, including posters, red bows, and posting Drug-Free pledges for students to sign. They transformed the school during this week to bring awareness to important topics that impact our student body. In addition, they also worked with Teens in the Driver Seat, a booth was set up in the cafeteria that included interactive games about driver safety, handed out bumper stickers, safe driving bracelets, and other prizes to increase awareness about safe driving.

Once again, I find myself impressed by the efforts and dedication of our Vista Ridge Student Council. It is difficult enough to pull off one school event, but these students continued to work throughout the year to bring great events and activities to our campus and community. These activities were not just notable to our educational community but continued a student council tradition of a strong sense of community. They were able to "rebuild" many relationships and partnerships as they worked during the school year. The diligence that they give to supporting not only our faculty and students, but also reaching out to make an impact on the community is amazing. Our Ranger student council members continue to demonstrate the vision of the Texas Association of Student Councils by supporting and building leaders who positively impact our entire educational community. The lessons our representatives learn will serve them throughout their lives. These students continue to build upon a solid foundation of culture at the Ridge, and I am confident that wherever their lives take them, they will be able to build or "Rebuild" their communities.

Sincerely,

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

Patrick Peabody, Jr.  
Assistant Principal  
Vista Ridge High School