TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS
TASC TOP TEN PROJECTS COMPETITION

HIGH SCHOOL

ENTRY COVER SHEET

School Name:	**School UIL Classification:**
McAllen Memorial High School	6A
School Address:	**Size of Community:**
101 E Hackberry Ave	142,212
City/State:	**Zip:**
McAllen, TX	78501
School Phone:	**School Fax:**
956-632-5201	956-632-5226
Advisor Name:	**Advisor E-Mail:**
Valeria Carpenter	Valeria.carpenter@mcallenisd.net
Principal Name:	**Principal Signature:**
Pedro Alvarez, Jr.	P. S. 2
Project Name:	**Project Dates:**
Mustangs Against Human Trafficking	1/11/2018 – 1/20/2018
Total Number of Students in Council:	**Number of Members Involved in Project:**
50	30
Total Number of Students Enrolled in School:	**Number of Other Students Involved in Project:**
2200	30
Total Number of Faculty Enrolled in School	**Number of Faculty Involved in Project**
150	10
Number of Community Groups Involved in Project	**Number of Community Members Involved in Project**
4	15

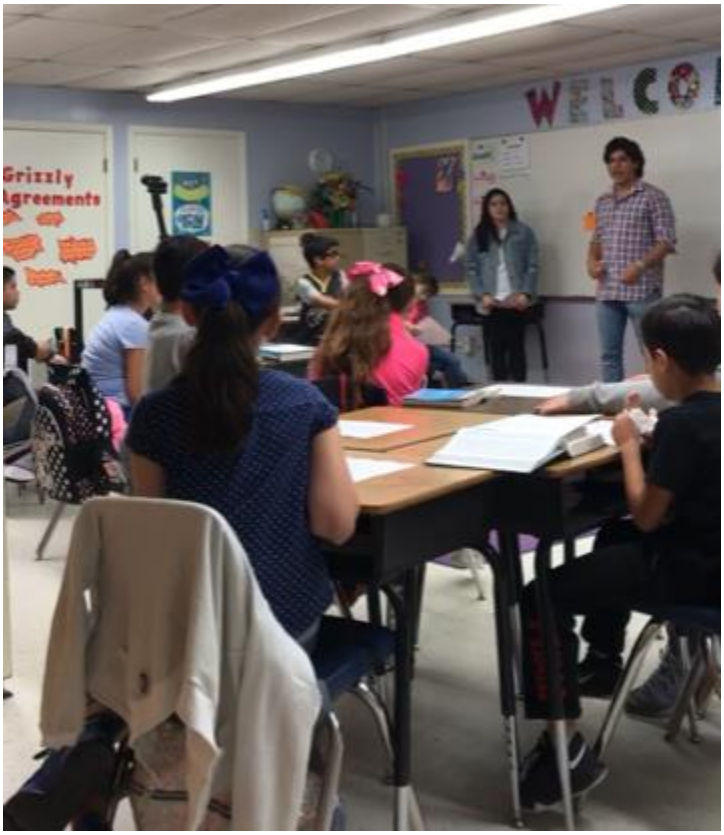
THIS INFORMATION MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE.

Top Ten entries must be submitted by **FEBRUARY 13, 2018**

Mustangs Against Human Trafficking

The goal for our project was to educate as many people not only in our school, but also in our community. Our Council decided to raise awareness and educate students and community members on how to notice it, stop it, and prevent it. On January 8th, our Council received a City Proclamation declaring January as National Human Trafficking Awareness Month. We officially started our project on January 11th, National Human Trafficking Awareness Day by wearing blue throughout the school day. We organized a 3K to bring everyone in our community together to stand against this problem and we called it "Mustangs March Against Human Trafficking." To promote this event on January 15, Telemundo aired a small segment to explain the details of our event and invite the community. Our Council teamed up with the Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) group on January 16 and 18 to travel to Elementary school and teach children about cybersecurity. We made them sign pledges to be safe and we hope we can prevent them from forever going through any difficult issue like being trafficked. On January 16, our hard work got recognized by the County and we, alongside the Victims Unit Department and Fuerza del Valle, received a Proclamation from The Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court. We followed TASC's advice and we contacted John Montemayor, the Safety Manager of the McAllen ISD PD, to train the teachers, staff and administrators on how to prevent and spot these cases. Our 3K took place on January 20th. To make this event as informative as possible we had guest speakers, like Tracy Hughes, Founder and Director of Tamar's Tapestry; Ricardo Rodriguez, Hidalgo County's District Attorney and the Hidalgo County Victims Unit Team. Our school's National Honor Society helped us guide the community members through the trail. Food trucks like Taco Palenque and Kona Ice donated their time and showed up to our event. We were lucky that several local channels showed up and while interviewing us, both in English and Spanish, they asked how they could identify human trafficking victims. So, in a way, we got a chance to reach the whole Rio Grande Valley and educate them, too.

Updated August 2017



Updated August 2017

McALLEN
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

PEDRO ALVAREZ, JR.
Principal

To Whom it May Concern:

We are very proud of our Student Council for their commitment to the education of our students here at McAllen Memorial High School. They have taken the initiative to shed light on some powerful topics that may be difficult to understand or believe may be happening within our surroundings.

Their latest project to bring awareness on the issue of human trafficking was powerful. They have gained recognition by the City of McAllen and Hidalgo County for their hard work and received a proclamation. Our entire faculty was trained on what to look for in our students and how to detect some of the signs that a student may display. This information made a huge difference and opened the eyes of many teachers and staff members that deal with numerous situations within the classroom.

Student Council also organized a human trafficking "Mustang March". During this event there was collaboration with our community leaders that are fighting to win this battle. Ricardo Rodriguez, District Attorney for Hidalgo County, addressed our audience and gave us the opportunity to see beyond our campus perimeter to the very dark reality of human trafficking. He also shared some important tips to parents and our students. Tracy Hughes from "Tamar's Tapestry" spoke about her shelter and how it can help anyone who may be in a trafficking situation and the human trafficking hotline for anyone that has information that may lead to the arrest of someone who is trafficking or someone who are being trafficked. The event ended with our students, staff, and community leaders joined together in a 3K walk around our campus.

Memorial High School Student Council has also worked with P.A.L., which is another organization, and together they have brought awareness to the McAllen ISD elementary students on cyber-security. The intent is to be proactive in educating the student of our district in a very serious problem within our community.

Melissa Salinas

Melissa Salinas
Assistant Principal
McAllen Memorial High School

Mustang Pride: A Commitment to Excellence

101 EAST HACKBERRY • McALLEN, TEXAS 78501 • (956) 632-5201 • FAX (956) 632-5226

Dear Student Council,

On behalf of the National Honor Society chapter at McAllen Memorial High School, I would like to so say thank you for inviting us to your Mustang March Against Human Trafficking and for allowing us to partake in this amazing event. We had over 40 members attend your march and all of them came back to me with nothing but wonderful things to say about the event. I know my members learned some extremely valuable lessons from the array of speakers you had and are now taking precautions in their daily lives, that they wouldn't have if it weren't for this event.

The issue that this march brought to light is something that is not talked about often, but I am glad that you raised awareness for human trafficking and I know that the NHS members are glad you did, as well. Your march made our connection as an organization grow because we are now looking out for each other and are aware of the signs of human trafficking. This was also a great event for community outreach. Having multiple speakers, news outlets, and local food trucks really helped your message transcend to those all over our region. The representation of multiple student organizations also brought a new sense of unity to not only the Memorial HS community, but the McAllen ISD community.

Once again, thank you for hosting the Mustang March Against Human Trafficking and involving Memorial High School's National Honor Society in this undertaking. Your message spread loud and clear to so many young hearts.

Sincerely,
National Honor Society Advisor

Jessica Kaiser

Jessica Kaiser

Dear Student Council,

It is known that with the power of the internet, there is access to so much research and information and websites. So with the "wide world web" at our fingertips, it comes with great responsibility. At Gonzalez Elementary School, we were given the opportunity to spread awareness for cyberbullying and cybersecurity. Multiple PALs were spread out across many classrooms at the school. The purpose was to teach elementary students how to protect themselves from potential harm and how to safely use the internet.

After going through a lesson plan with the different classes, the students interacted by signing a promise that they would practice internet safety. It was enjoyable because we all felt a movement being created. As these younger students grow up in a technologically-advanced society, it is important to teach and raise them to be smart children. By putting into practice the safety tips for how to benefit the most from using the internet, ``this upcoming generation can and will use the internet for what it was intended for, to gain access to much more information and to use it to get and stay connected with the world.

A huge thank you to you, McAllen Memorial student council, for providing us with the lesson plans to teach and giving us the promises for the children to sign. It is awesome how some of the PALs are in fact student council members, which allows us to have access to the same resources. The presentations allowed our PALs to connect with the students better and were able to truly mentor them in the realm of the internet. We, as PALs, are so thankful that our organizations were able to team up to make our community a better place.

Thank you,

Peer Assistance Leadership