

State Youth Director Lynette Talasek

SPJST Home Office

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April 26, 2017

Dear SPJST Youth Leaders,

May is here and that means school will soon be out and many of our young people will be graduating from high school. Graduating seniors, remember the values your parents, grandparents and the SPJST Youth Program have instilled in you and know that they help to define the person you are today. Believe in yourself and have the courage and conviction to stand up for what is right. Strive to do your best. Congratulations! I wish you much success with everything you do in life.

I have been to several District Spring Meetings and Easter egg hunts in the last month. Everyone has been so nice and I have enjoyed every minute of my travels. Many of our youth have taken the time to create a decorated rock and participate in the Decorated Rock Contest. It has been very exciting to me to see the entries and the creativity of each youth that has participated.

Now that district spring meetings are all done we are now in full swing for camp and youth achievement days.

Decorated Rock Contest

Thank you to everyone who participated in this years Decorated Rock Contest. The contest was a huge success across the state and the participation was fantastic. We have a wonderful display of rocks for the home office this year. Watch the Vestnik for a full list of winners in each District and the overall winners for the state contest.

Camp Tee-Shirt Orders Due June 30

This year's camp tee-shirts are available for sale. Youth Leaders, please let parents know that they can order their children's camp tee-shirts on-line when registering for camp or by filling out the form and sending it to the SPJST Home Office. All Tee-shirts are \$8.50 and the deadline to order is June 30.

Tee-shirts can be delivered to camp, picked up at the Home Office, or mailed to you for \$2.

Flag Day Essay Contest

All SPJST youth between the ages of kindergarten and high school senior are encouraged to enter this year's Flag Day Contest. This contest will promote patriotism and creative literacy. There will also be a coloring contest for members ages

eight and under. Several prizes will be awarded in the Flag Day Contest. The deadline for all entries is May 31. Please make reference to the Flag Day Essay Contest guidelines enclosed with this mailing. This years theme is "Flying High for 240 Years". This would be a good time to talk about the right way to display the U.S Flag and flag etiquette. You may also consider having a member of the Boy Scouts or the American Legion come in as a guest speaker.

Important Notice: *Vestnik* Projects and 4th Quarterly Merit Reports Due June 1

Please remember the Vestnik Projects and 4th Quarterly Merit Reports are due on June 1. If you mail them to the Home Office on or after June 15, this does not give Tammy enough time (one week) to get the data to the District Youth Counselors on who is eligible to attend SPJST camp and Youth Achievement Day. Please be diligent on getting this information in a timely manner.

2017 Leaders-In-Training Retreat Applications Due May 15

Leaders-In-Training Retreat will be at SPJST Education and Nature Center at Cooper Farm on, Friday June 9 through Sunday, June 11. Registration will be from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m and camp activities will get rolling. We will be covering the duties of an LIT at camp. This will give the LITs the opportunity to acquire some great skills and help them be an important asset to their District Camps. I won't give anything away, but I'll tell you some great activities are being planned. LITs must attend this event in order to be eligible to assist with their district's summer camping season. LITs will also assist their youth leaders with their youth clubs throughout the year.

Who's eligible to be a Leader-In-Training? LITs are active high school aged youth who have been approved by their Youth Leader and District Youth Counselor as responsible and mature enough to be an LIT. The youth club member may attend the LIT Workshop after completing an Leader-In-Training Contract. Forms will be made available through the online camp application system. LIT Camp Registration is due on May 15.

StateWide Food Drive

The participation on this years Super Cereal Drive was even better than last years beans and rice drive. Almost all youth clubs participated and several adult lodges. Numbers are still coming in and as soon as I get a final number the results will be posted in the Vestnik.

2017 SPJST Summer Camp

All camp applications are due by June 1, 2017. If you have a member who is not active in the youth program but who would still like to attend SPJST Summer Camp they may attend for a fee. The cost for the five day four night camp is \$250 per camper made payable to SPJST. If you are interested in your child attending SPJST Summer Camp and would like more information please contact State Youth Director Lynette Talasek at 254-773-1575 or 1-800-727-7578.

June Vestnik Project

The June Vestnik Project will be all about the United States flag. Please consider a discussion on flag etiquette or the history of the flag. Also, please note that May 31 is the deadline for the Flag Day Essay Contest. July Vestnik project will be about National Parents Day. I hope you can plan something fun for your youth club parents.

State YAD August 5 at the Temple Mayborn Center

It looks like the hotel rooms will be in high demand in Temple again this year. Enclosed is a list of hotels we have rooms blocked with. Please make your reservations soon - it is easier to cancel a room than find a room at the last minute.

End-Of-Summer Getaway!

Good times await you at the Corpus Christi End-of-Summer Getaway. Start making your plans now to join us on August 11 - 13 for a fun-filled weekend. We will be staying at the Emerald Beach Hotel which is located right on the beach. There will be a lot of activities for the whole family. Additional details will be included in future newsletters and will be presented in the *Vestnik* as they become available.

Fraternally yours,

Lynette Talasek

Lynette Talasek
State Youth Director

SPJST May Vestnik Project - Memorial Day

This project earns a maximum 2 points in the SPJST Youth Clubs Merit Points System. Mail completed project no later than **May 31, 2017** to:
SPJST Youth Program c/o SPJST Home Office • P.O. Box 100 • Temple, Texas 76503

Name _____ Age _____ Lodge _____

The Meaning of Memorial Day

The Memorial Day holiday got started on May 30, 1868, when Union General John A. Logan declared the day an occasion to decorate the graves of Civil War soldiers. Twenty years later, the name was changed to Memorial Day.

On May 11, 1950, Congress passed a resolution requesting that the President issue a proclamation calling on Americans to observe each Memorial Day as a day of prayer for permanent peace and designating a period on that day when the people of the United States might unite in prayer.

President Richard M. Nixon declared Memorial Day a federal holiday in 1971. Memorial Day is now observed on the last Monday of May. It is an occasion to honor the men and women who died in all wars.



www.timeforkids.com

Remembering Those Who Served

It is customary to mark Memorial Day by visiting graveyards and war monuments. One of the biggest Memorial Day traditions is for the President or Vice President to give a speech and lay a wreath on soldiers' graves in the largest national cemetery, Arlington National Cemetery, in Virginia.

Most towns have local Memorial Day celebrations. Here are some ways you can honor the men and women who serve our country:

- Put flags or flowers on the graves of men and women who served in wars.
- Fly the U.S. flag at half-staff until noon.
- Visit monuments dedicated to soldiers, sailors and marines.
- Participate in a National Moment of Remembrance at 3 p.m. local time.
- March in a parade.

Now It's Your Turn.

- 1.. What date did Memorial Day get started? _____
2. When was Memorial Day declared a federal holiday? _____
3. What time is the National Moment of Remembrance? _____
4. Where is the largest National Cemetery located? _____
4. How will you observe Memorial Day this year? _____

Hotels in Temple For State YAD
August 4 – August 5, 2017

1. Holiday Inn Express
2609 S 39th Street
Temple, TX 76504
254-773-5500

Please reserve by July 23, 2017
10 Double Queen Rooms - \$85.00 + tax

2. Candlewood Suites
1850 Scott Blvd.
Temple, TX 76501
254-773-8342

Please reserve by July 23, 2017
10 Double Queen Rooms - \$79.99 + tax
10 King - \$79.99 + tax

3. Best Western Inn and Suites
602 North General Bruce Drive
Temple, TX 76504
254-742-1122

Please reserve by July 23, 2017
9 Double Queen Rooms – 80.99 + tax

4. Hilton Garden Inn
1749 Scott Blvd.
Temple, TX 76504
254-773-0200

Please reserve by July 23, 2017
6 Double Queen Rooms - \$99.00 + tax
6 King – \$99.00 + tax

5. Residence Inn/Marriott
4301 South General Bruce Drive
Temple, TX 76502
254-773-8400

Please reserve by July 23, 2017
20 King Suite w/sleeper sofa – 104.00 + tax
Reserve with Group Code: SPJST

When reserving rooms please be sure to tell them you are with SPJST.

SAVE THE DATE



Make plans now to attend the
11TH ANNUAL
CORPUS CHRISTI
GETAWAY WEEKEND
AUGUST 11 - 13, 2017

Enjoy a fun-filled weekend
with family and friends at
the Emerald Beach Hotel
in Corpus Christi.

Located at 1102 South Shoreline, the
Emerald Beach is the only beachfront
downtown hotel.



Discount Rate:
\$119 per night
Applicable taxes apply

To make your reservations,
please call the hotel directly at
361-883-5731 and refer to group
code "SPJ" to assume that you
receive the proper room rate.

WANTED



MEMBER REFERRALS

When it comes to getting new SPJST members, there's no substitute for member referrals. When an SPJST member refers a friend or family member for membership in SPJST, he or she is helping to build a stronger and more active lodge. It also qualifies you to participate in the monthly referral card drawing contest.

MONTHLY CONTESTS!

The name of each member who sends in a referral card(s) during the month will go into a drawing for three \$25 Walmart gift cards. The referrer also benefits by helping to build a stronger and more active local lodge. Referral cards are available from the SPJST Home Office, at SPJST-sponsored events, and online at www.spjst.org.

Please help us to ensure that the leads that you pass on are quality leads. We would not want any sales agent to devote precious time to calling on unqualified leads. A good referral is someone who an SPJST member has spoken with about membership and/or life insurance in SPJST and who has expressed an interest in joining. In visiting with your prospective lead, make sure that he or she knows that an SPJST Sales Agent will call.



2017 Membership Drive