

Diving Deep With

SPJST

2019



Design By: Angel Pace
Lodge 154, Fort Worth

2019



2020

**SPJST Youth Club
Handbook**

Fraternal Life Insurance Isn't a Relic.

It's an Opportunity!

“Fraternalism has survived because it is good and it deserves to live,” say the authors of The Fraternal Sales Training Program. “Its leaders had a keen realization of the world’s need for fraternalism and the power of see into the future . . . A glorious future looms ahead for the fraternal system with even greater opportunities for serving people, if we accept the challenge and live up to our opportunities.”



**What about you?
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Visit us online at www.spjst.org.**

**Accept the Challenge:
Become an SPJST Sales Agent!**



Diving Deep With SPJST

Dear SPJST Youth and Parents,

Welcome to the SPJST Youth Program! SPJST is a fraternal organization founded on the time-honored idea of doing good for each other and for the communities that we seek to serve. Our youth mission is to provide a well-rounded educational, patriotic, and social program. We also like to have fun!

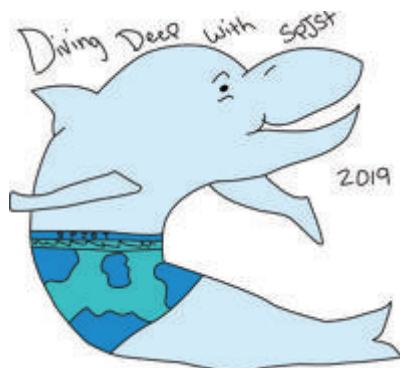
Through active participation in local SPJST Youth Clubs and statewide events, youngsters between the ages of five and 18 develop a greater awareness of the common bonds that we all share. SPJST Youth Clubs also work with community-based organizations to tailor programs to fit local needs.

SPJST Summer Camp fosters a spirit of cooperation, forms an appreciation of the natural environment, and helps campers to achieve their full potential. Summer camp is provided on the basis of active participation.

SPJST sponsors Youth Achievement Day (YAD) competitions on the district and state levels as an educational activity for SPJST Youth Club members. Contestants field entries in a range of areas including arts and crafts, music, dance, drama, and public speaking. Individuals participating in YAD must be a member.

Knowledge is power. SPJST strongly encourages its outstanding young members to continue their educational development. Since its inception, the SPJST Scholarship Program has awarded more than \$1.2 million to deserving, college-bound youth. Selections are based on academics and leadership. Active youth may also qualify for educational scholarships.

If you have any questions about participation in the SPJST Youth Program, browse the handbook. If you would like to request membership information, please contact me anytime on my cell phone at 254.534.0681. Or, feel free to email me at frankh@spjst.com or my assistant, Tammy, at tammym@spjst.com. I look forward to meeting you!



Fraternally yours,

Frank Horak
SPJST Fraternal Director

2019-2020 Youth Club Handbook Changes

Pages 14 and 15

Youth Leader's Responsibilities

- ★ **Must*** attend district training class and state youth leaders' workshop for training and updates on the current youth year's information.
- ★ **Must*** conduct monthly youth club meetings.
- ★ **Must*** have an SPJST life insurance certificate in force.
- ★ **Must*** participate at district functions and district activities, including district meetings.
- ★ **Must*** submit at least one audit report annually by March 1 or your district spring meeting. All audit reports will be forwarded to the DYC.*

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Leader-In-Training (LIT)

New youth to the LIT program must attend the LIT workshop in June.*

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Talent Entry Cards

Vocal - CD or USB flash drive that contains only the song to be used for competition must be included with talent cards. Contestants are encouraged to bring their own back-up sound player to ensure their music can be played during their performance. This measure should be taken to ensure that there are no compatibility problems with the CD or USB flash drive and the audio equipment used at YAD.*

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★ **State YAD Talent/Royalty Committee** - At State YAD, a talent/royalty committee will determine if talent acts/royalty presentations violate any rules during competitions, including performance time. No one is allowed to sit with the committee. No outside protests will be allowed.*

★ **Rules and Regulations** - Everyone is subject to the same rules and regulations. Anything that is a violation of the rules will result in disqualification from that particular contest.*

District Winners

★ The top three winners, except Photography winners, at District YAD will retain their entries for competition at State YAD. The top three Photography entries will be sent to the Home Office by the State Fraternal Director (or Home Office representative) after District YAD. The entries will be pre-scanned for the awards presentation show at State YAD.*

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Scrapbooks to be judged at the 2019 YAD must include all of the following:

- A cover that reflects the 2018-2019 youth year theme: "Out of This World With SPJST."*

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Youth Club Posters

Posters to be judged at the 2019 YAD must contain the 2018-2019 youth year theme: "Out of This World With SPJST."*

Craft Judging Criteria

Dessert (Candies)*

Taste and Texture35 points
Appearance25 points
Level of Difficulty25 points
Consistency15 points

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Constructed Items*

2019: Copper, Metal, Tin
2020: Clay or Dough Molded
2021: Plastics*

- ★ For the 2019 contest, the subject matter must be metal.*

Dessert*

2019: Candies
2020: Cookies
2021: Kolaches*

- ★ Candies must be displayed on a white, disposable plate and be brought to the competition in a plastic, ziplock-type bag.*

- ★ The number of pieces of candies to enter is 25.*

- ★ No mixes allowed. Candies must be made from scratch.*

- ★ No dipped items, including nuts, fruit, marshmallows, insects, etc.*

- ★ No flour.*

- ★ No refrigerated items.

- ★ The **typed** recipe must accompany the YAD entry card on an index card no larger than 4-inches by 6-inches.

- ★ Only the dessert item will be judged.

- ★ Judges will taste all entries.

- ★ All State YAD entries in the dessert category will be sold following judging. This includes dessert item and recipe card. All proceeds will benefit the General SPJST Scholarship Fund (one-half) and Camp Kubena (one-half).

Candies - Definitions*

- ★ **Divinity:** Very sweet, very soft candy made from white or brown sugar, whipped whites of eggs, corn syrup, water, salt, and flavoring. If brown sugar is used instead of white sugar, the candy is called sea foam. Some recipes for divinity candy specify ingredients such as peppermint, cinnamon, chocolate, or candied fruits for flavoring.

- ★ **Fudge:** A thick, firm, smooth candy that is set up in a pan and cut into squares. Candy can be cooked or uncooked. Degree of difficulty increases with cooked recipes. Ingredients usually include butter or margarine, fat derived from chocolate, milk, and sugar. Other flavor variations might include peanut butter, marshmallow, white chocolate, etc. Nuts may be added.

- ★ **Brittles and Other Hard Candies:** Breaks with sharp edges rather than bends, candy mass is somewhat crunchy. These include brittles and lollipops.

- ★ **Toffee:** A candy formed by boiling a sugar mixture to a high temperature, normally soft-crack or hard-crack. Toffee normally has a hard, slightly chewy texture and a rich taste that is gained by adding butter to the sugar mixture. Other additions may include nuts and chocolate. Cracker toffee is not acceptable.

- ★ **Pralines:** This candy may have two different forms.

- ★ **Candy, Other Types:** This includes any candy that is not a fudge, brittle, divinity, or actually not prepared in a microwave, such as fondant, caramel, taffy, and filled or dipped candies such as bon bons or turtles.

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Photography*

2019: Scenic/Nature
2020: Flowers
2021: Sports*

- ★ All entries must illustrate the current year's category — Scenic/Nature.*

- ★ Subject must be the focal point of the category to be judged. The "scenic/nature" subject in the photograph can be any kind of scenic/nature as long as it is not offensive or depicting alcohol, tobacco, or a drug product.*

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- Contestants using recorded accompaniment must provide a CD/USB flash drive **that contains only the song to be used for competition.** CD/USB flash drive must be ready for play when given to sound crew or a penalty of one point per judge will be assessed.*

- All contestants will provide anything needed for their talents. CD/USB flash drives should be checked out prior to the beginning of YAD to be sure they are working properly. If someone is to assist with any of the equipment, be sure they understand how to help and where to begin the CD/USB flash drive so the talent will start as practiced for the contestant.*

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Royalty Speech Topic for 2019*

The topic for the 2019 royalty speeches is: **"Diving Deep With SPJST."***

- If any technical difficulties should arise, the contestant should have the opportunity to restart the speech.*

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State King and State Queen Requirements*

The State King and State Queen are required to make public appearances together with arrangements made by the State Fraternal Director. If the State King or Queen fail to make required appearances, their \$1,500 royalty scholarship will be forfeited. State Royalty must be

clean cut and have no facial hair, visible body piercings, or tattoos. State Royalty will be reimbursed for mileage, meals, and other expenses as approved by the Supreme Lodge President/Head of the Youth Department.*

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Summer Camp Eligibility*

If a youth member with special/medical needs attends camp, the youth must be accompanied by an adult family member of the same sex and with a current SPJST life insurance certificate in force.*

Camp Sessions*

Junior Camp - Ages Completed Kindergarten to Age 12 Years Old
 Teen Camp - Ages 13 Years to High School Senior

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Adult Chaperones (Camp Counselors)*

All adult chaperones/SPJST camp staff must complete an online SPJST Camp Staff/Volunteer Application and submit it to the State Fraternal Director no later than February 28. These applications are available through the SPJST website. No adult may assist at SPJST Camp without a completed SPJST Camp Staff/Volunteer Application on file for the current year. All adult chaperones and SPJST camp staff paid for by SPJST will undergo background checks, which the SPJST Home Office will complete.*

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Flag Day Contest*

2020 Theme

"The American Flag - Freedom, Courage, and Honor"*

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SPJST's Abuse Reporting Policy*

Anyone having cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been or may be adversely affected by abuse or neglect MUST report the case to a state or local law enforcement agency or the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS) 1-800-252-5400.

- You have 48 hours to make the report after the outcry.

- You should immediately report it to your District Youth Counselor, Camp Director, or State Fraternal Director. They can help guide you through the process. The DYC, Camp Director, or State Fraternal Director will report to the President and the Director of Communication.

- Reporting it to your District Youth Counselor, Camp Director, or State Fraternal Director does not satisfy your legal obligation to report.

- The situation should not be discussed with anyone that is not in a need-to-know position. This is for the protection of both the accuser and the accused (in the case of a false accusation)

- Timing is key, and while you may have up to 48 hours to contact the authorities, take into account when the camper is scheduled to be returning to the abusive environment.

SPJST YOUTH CLUB HANDBOOK



YOUTH CLUB MOTTO

I pledge my support
to uphold the high
ideals of the SPJST:
Seeking brotherhood;
Pledging benevolence;
Joining hands;
Supporting humanity;
Trusting in my ability
to make this world
a better place.
This I pledge.

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2019 - 2020 SPJST Youth Club Handbook

Dear Youth Club Members and Adult Leaders,

SPJST is based on the time-honored idea of “doing good”—doing good for each other and doing good for the communities that our lodges seek to serve. We do this in many ways. One of the most rewarding programs that we offer to our young members is the SPJST Youth Program. Whether you are a youth club member or an adult leader, I hope that you find your participation in the SPJST youth program an enjoyable and rewarding experience. This handbook outlines the many aspects of the program.

SPJST is like a beautiful bracelet. Each jewel in the bracelet is brilliant, but the exquisite artistry

lies in their connectivity. SPJST Youth Leaders and District Youth Counselors provide the supervision and direction necessary to keep our young members on track and involved. The stronger your involvement, the more dynamic your local lodge’s youth program can be.

Thank you for your interest and involvement in the SPJST Youth Program. I encourage you to keep up the good work in the year ahead.

Fraternally yours,

Brian Vanicek

Supreme Lodge President

Head of the Youth Department

State Fraternal Director

Frank Horak

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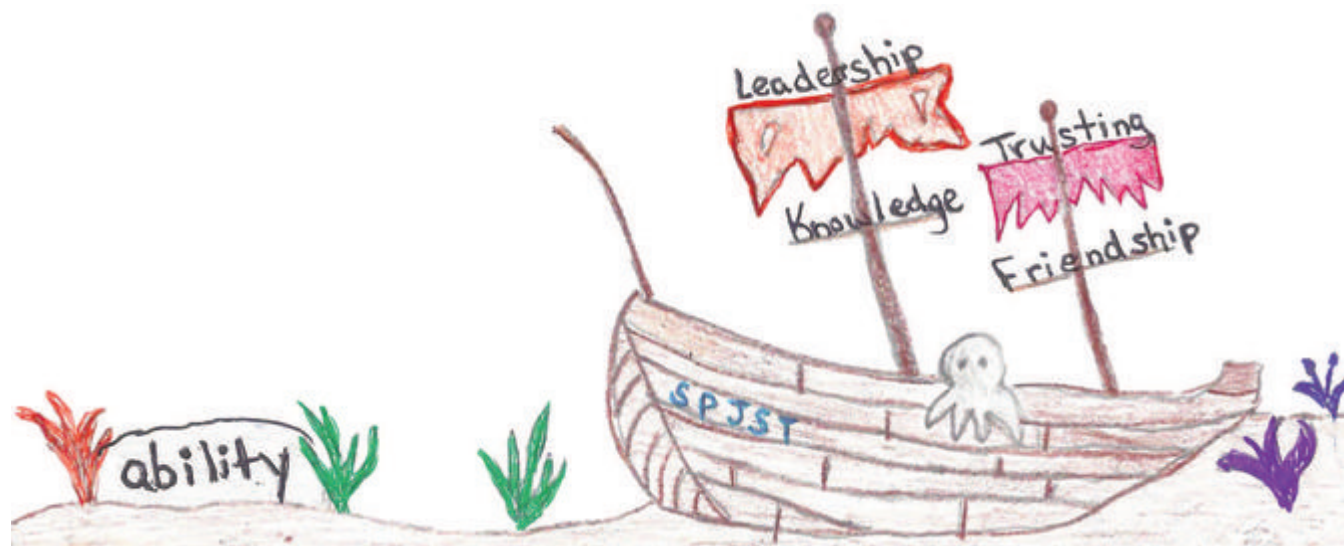
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SPJST Youth Program Addresses Social Needs and Civic Responsibilities

The Early Years

According to *A History of the SPJST* compiled by late Supreme Lodge President Nick A. Morris, the SPJST youth program began as early as 1937 when a youth group on the lodge level was formed at Lodge 25, Ennis. The second such youth group was formed at Lodge 88, Houston in 1948. The third youth group was formed at Lodge 4, Hallettsville in 1953. The fourth and fifth youth groups were organized at Lodge 66, Waco and Lodge 84, Dallas. Both were formed in 1954.

A driving force behind SPJST's Youth Movement in the early 1950s was Birdie Hilsher Pech. In a *Veštník* column that Sister Pech wrote in 1953, she says, "If you think that the grass is just a little greener on the other side of the fence, better think twice. Our SPJST has all of the green grass. It is up to us to keep it watered now and keep it growing bigger and better all the time. Keep our youth and keep them entertained for a greater future of our SPJST, for without them, we would perish as grass would die without water."

Sixty-five years later, these words still ring true. The purpose of the SPJST Youth Department continues to be twofold: first, to build character among the younger members and secondly, to involve our young people in activities that will prepare them for leadership positions at all levels of our Society and in their adult lives.

A Three-Part Program

On an annual basis, SPJST Youth Clubs sponsor a wide range of social activities, community service projects and charity projects. The SPJST youth club is about having fun, but it's also about contributing to the welfare of the people of Texas.

The SPJST Youth Program has three parts: educational, patriotic, and social. The educational part of the

SPJST Youth Program is an ongoing part of local youth club activities. State and local programs address a range of areas, including human relations, nature, parliamentary procedure, juvenile decency, arts and crafts, the fine arts, music, dramatics, and ethnic tradition. Youth club members range from kindergarten to high school senior.

The patriotic program consists of ceremonial rituals and an annual essay contest. The objective is to teach the operation of a free democratic society and majority rule.

The social program includes socials, dances, picnics, pageants, hayrides, and family group activities geared to foster family unity.

In addition, SPJST makes summer camping trips available to its active young members. According to the current SPJST By-Laws, each of the seven districts will camp at Camp Kubena in Ledbetter, Texas. Districts combine camp sessions.

Generally stated, SPJST camp is provided on the basis of participation in SPJST activities. To qualify for camp, active youth club members must attend seven out of 12 youth meetings in the months preceding camp. Any youth (previous member or new certificate) who initially joins the youth club must attend the majority of meetings to be eligible for camp. Another way to qualify for camp is to attend seven out of 12 adult meetings in lodges where there are no youth clubs. Non-active youth members may attend camp for a fee that is determined by their district's District Youth Counselor. Youth camp funds come from an allocation by the SPJST Supreme Lodge.

A number of professional assistants are hired for instruction in archery, aquatics, horsemanship, and as camp nurse. Much of the chaperoning and programming is done by parents and SPJST trained leaders.

Adult leaders are trained at an annual workshop held in March or April. District Youth Counselors and trained specialists instruct youth leaders in various aspects of the SPJST youth program, including camping, first aid, and team-building.

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and secondly, to involve
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levels of our Society
and in their adult lives.*

A second workshop, the leaders-in-training workshop, for high school youth club members is held in early June.

In addition to its summer camp program, SPJST offers its young people a program which encourages them to participate in a range of individual and group skills and talent competitions. The program culminates with the State Youth Achievement Day and Royalty Contest, held on a statewide basis on the first Saturday in August. More than 300 young people from across the state participate in the event which represents the grand finale of the summer long district contests. The competition covers talent, speech and crafts.

It is cooperative efforts such as these that truly symbolize the great potential of SPJST — young and old — working together to achieve common goals and enjoying life together.

Texans have long been familiar with the initials SPJST. Less familiar is the Czech name they represent— *Slovanska Podporujici Jednota Statu Texas*. English translation: Slavonic Benevolent Order of the State of Texas. By any name, SPJST is an organization with a proud past and a bright future.

Paradise on Earth

To better understand SPJST and why it was established, it is important to know a little about the group's founders and their homeland — the Czech lands of Moravia, Slovakia and Bohemia.

Combined, this region represents a section of central Europe, rich in natural resources and often referred to in song and poetry as “*Zemsky Raj to na Pokled*” or “Paradise on Earth.”

Because it was so well-endowed by natural resources, the Czech lands were among the most progressive and highly developed in Central Europe. With the establishment of the first university, Charles University, in Prague in 1348, the region also became a center of higher education. For these and other reasons, the Czech lands became an attractive prize and the target of recurring assaults by its neighbors. These attacks culminated with the Battle of White Mountain in 1620 when the Czech people were thoroughly defeated. The nation ceased to exist, and all its people were either killed or sent into exile and its wealth went to its conquerors.

Coming to America

The exiled Czechs emigrated into Germany, Russia, England, and the United States. The first arrived in North America after the Battle of White Mountain, settling in New Amsterdam, which is now known as New York. Many others soon followed.

They brought with them the spirit of liberty that had been crushed at White Mountain. They took great pride in this country which gave them the privilege to determine their own destiny and to bind together to achieve even greater accomplishments.

Between 1834 and 1900, approximately 200,000 people of Czech descent immigrated from their native land to America. Many of those ended up in Texas. To make life more enjoyable, the Czech immigrants and their families stuck together.

Strength in Numbers

In the 1880s, Czech pioneers in Texas elected to join others across the United States in a fraternal benefit union called the CSPS, now known as the Czechoslovak Society of America (CSA).

The first Texas lodge was organized April 13, 1894. At that time, the CSPS was undergoing a period of internal strife, mainly centering around disagreement over money matters. Generally stated, Texans believed that CSPS ties lay overwhelmingly in favor of eastern industrial workers, rather than in favor of the farming families of the west.

Certain financial demands were not met by the CSPS, and western and Texas delegates grew disenchanting with the organization of the society. Giving up their efforts at fiscal reform, Texas Czechs shortly after 1896 decided on secession from the CSPS. And on December 28 of that year, Texas delegates gathered at La Grange and set about the task of forming a new society.

After some discussion, a three-member committee was elected to draw up a set of by-laws for the new organization. The committee elected consisted of J.R. Kubena, A. Haidusek, and F. Cihal. Haidusek later gave up the job, and L.V. Vanek was named to this committee. In March of 1897, the constitution was submitted to the Texas CSPS lodges for consideration. Seven of the 25 Texas lodges approved the constitution and withdrew from the older society.

In addition to its summer camp program, SPJST offers its young people a program which encourages them to participate in a range of individual and group skills and talent competitions. The program culminates with the State Youth Achievement Day and Royalty Contest.

These seven lodges represented the vanguard of the fledgling SPJST organization. Official records indicate that the first convention was held in La Grange on June 20, 1897, and the society started operations on July 1, 1897, with 782 members and 25 lodges. SPJST received its state charter on August 12, 1897.

The Road to Temple

SPJST's first base of operations was located in Fayetteville, Texas. The reason being that the central figure in administering the affairs of the Society, Secretary J.R. Kubena, had his personal business operations located in that city. Until his death in 1938, Kubena administered the affairs of SPJST out of a single room in his general merchandise store.

It wasn't until the early 1930s that the other officers were made full-time, and additional office space was needed. That is when the Supreme Lodge officers rented the building housing the former Fayetteville State Bank a door or two down in October 1932 for the rental fee of \$30 per month. The building served two, then three, Supreme Lodge officers until the early 1940s when the records and offices were moved to a larger building on the square in Fayetteville. Following the 1952 Convention in Houston, the offices were moved to Temple.

The move from Fayetteville to Temple was made during the months of August and September of 1953. A decision had previously been reached to completely renovate and remodel the third floor of the Professional Building on Second Street and Central Avenue to house the officers of the Supreme Lodge.

As the years passed, it became increasingly evident that adequate and suitable quarters would have to be sought elsewhere, and the solutions seemed to lie in the construction of a new building. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held on October 25, 1969, with formal dedication of the new SPJST Home Office building on the corner of Main Street and French Avenue taking place on Sunday, January 31, 1971.

Society With a Purpose

From the outset, SPJST lodge meetings made members feel at home and provided them with the economic security of fraternal life insurance. But, there was much more to SPJST than that . . . Through participation in lodge meetings and SPJST conventions, members learned and applied the democratic processes of their newly adopted homeland. They grew to appreciate the value of free speech and to express their opinions. Moreover, they learned how to conduct meetings and the importance of voting. Having learned and

adopted these American values, SPJST members became better citizens.

SPJST served its purpose well. Over the course of the next two generations, American society and lifestyles changed dramatically. Our state and our nation was becoming progressively more industrialized. At the same time, the country was becoming more urban and less rural. Many people—including the sons and daughters of the early members—moved away from the farms and into the towns and cities. In many cases, they took SPJST with them. Thus, it was during this time that many of our urban lodges were established. It was also during this time, in 1953, that SPJST headquarters moved its state headquarters to Temple.

Once again, SPJST had an important mission to fulfill—to provide its members with identity and support at a time when life in America was becoming increasingly impersonal and unstable.

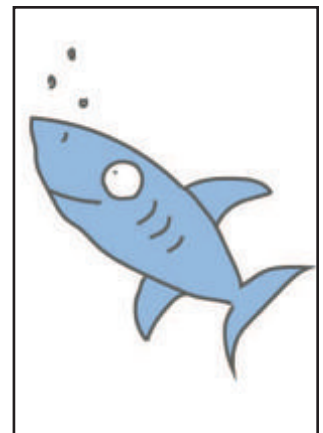
The society served its purpose well. The legacy of these days—the S.P.J.S.T. Senior Living Centers, youth program, and various cultural enrichment programs including the Czech Heritage Museum and Camp Kubena—are with us today.

Looking Ahead

Achieving success in the future remains an exciting prospect. Just as SPJST's forefathers learned to adjust, SPJST is responding to meet the needs of its members in these changing times.

From a financial perspective, SPJST offers its members a full line of life insurance programs, annuities, and related member benefits, including home, business, and farm and ranch loans.

One of the most significant fraternal developments in SPJST over the past decade has been the increase in volunteerism and human service projects. In lodges all over the state, members are committing their time and energy in support of worthwhile causes, helping people in need by working in hospitals, senior citizen homes, and raising money for many causes, including scholarships, food banks, volunteer fire departments, drug abuse programs, and various charities. They are taking the best that SPJST has to offer—a tradition of helping people to care for their families—and are extending it to their communities. In light of all these things, there is indeed great promise for the future of fraternalism and SPJST.





SPJST Youth Program: Mission, Goals, Definitions, and Responsibilities

Mission and Goals

The mission of the SPJST Youth Program is to provide a well-rounded educational, patriotic, and social program. In support of this mission, the SPJST Youth Program will continue to fulfill the following goals.

I. Educational

- A. To educate youth about SPJST, its history, Czech heritage, purpose, benefits, and future.
- B. To cultivate a loyalty to SPJST as an organization and a desire to support it and ensure its continued progress and existence.
- C. To develop character traits in youth which will make them better citizens in their communities, their state, and their nation.
- D. To guide and lead youth to grow in personal development by giving them opportunities to express their opinions, thoughts, and feelings.
- E. To provide opportunities for youth to demonstrate creativeness, talent, and knowledge.
- F. To develop the skills and talents that benefit SPJST's youth throughout life.
- G. To foster strong leadership and volunteerism in SPJST's youth and adults.

II. Patriotic

- A. To provide an opportunity for youth to learn about and to practice the democratic process.
- B. To develop patriotic projects and programs.

III. Social

- A. To work with families and other community agencies to provide meaningful leisure time activities for youth.

Achieving the mission will result in capable, competent, and caring SPJST members.

Definitions

Active Youth Member

A youngster with a current SPJST insurance certificate may enter the youth program the youth year that he/she will be entering kindergarten or age 5. To be considered active, youth club member must attend a majority (seven) of the monthly meetings at his/her home youth club during the year; however, youth may attend a maximum of two (2) adult lodge meetings; or

another lodge's youth club meeting if either their youth club is not meeting or they need to make up meetings. In those instances where a lodge does not have a youth club, the youngster may attend adult lodge meetings or the meetings of another youth club. The youngster will be eligible for camp and Youth Achievement Day (YAD) after the completion of his/her kindergarten year. Active youth members must be single and not be pregnant or a parent. The age of the youth on June 1 of the current youth year will be the recognized age in the SPJST Youth Program (camp, YAD, contests, etc.).

The youth year begins June 1 and ends May 31. Youth club eligibility ends when the youth graduates from high school.

All exceptions will be approved by the Supreme Lodge President and State Fraternal Director.

District

SPJST is divided into seven geographic regions across Texas.

District Youth Counselor (DYC)

Oversees all district youth activities (camp, youth achievement day, district social, etc.). Each of the seven districts elects a DYC and an assistant(s) in the spring district meeting every year.

Head of the Youth Program

SPJST Supreme Lodge President.

Home Office

Located at 520 North Main in Temple, Texas. The main floor of the building houses SPJST's business offices and public meeting area. The basement is home to the SPJST Archives and Texas Czech Genealogical Society's Czech Veterans' Wall of Honor and Pioneer Room.

Leader-In-Training (LIT)

A Leader-In-Training (LIT) is an active high school- aged youth who is deemed responsible by his/her youth leader and DYC. The youth club member may attend the LIT workshop, held in June, after completing a Leader-In-Training application and an SPJST camp application. LITs with a certificate from the State Fraternal Director will attend and assist with their district's summer camping session. LITs will also assist their youth leaders in their youth clubs throughout the year.

Local Lodge

Refers to the SPJST lodge of which the youth club is a part. There cannot be a youth club without a local lodge. Youth and adult members belong to a local lodge by being SPJST life insurance certificate holders.

Meetings

The youth club meets only once per month for its business meetings irrespective of the frequency of lodge meetings.

Merit Point Contests

Youth club members earn points for participating in lodge, district, and state activities. The youth leader or assistant youth leader is responsible for recording the merit points of each active youth club member. These points are to be posted on the Quarterly and Merit Point Report and sent to the State Fraternal Director each quarter. At District YAD, first through fifth place awards will be presented to all qualifying youth in the junior and teen divisions who have earned a minimum of 60 points. Youth club members are also encouraged to keep up with their point totals and provide them to their youth leaders on a quarterly basis.

Quarterly Report

To be completed by the youth leader and/or assistant youth leader and sent to the State Fraternal Director. This report includes the sign-in list and merit point totals. A disbursement of \$2 per member per meeting is mailed each quarter to each youth club provided that there is an average of at least five youngsters attending each meeting during the quarter. The quarterly reports are due as follows.

- September 15 - For June, July, August
- December 15 - For September, October, November
- March 15 - For December, January, February
- June 1 - For March, April, May

State Fraternal Director (SFD)

Oversees the SPJST Youth Program.

Supreme Lodge

The SPJST Supreme Lodge is comprised of four officers — President, Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, and Director of Accounting/Information Technology Services — and seven district directors of SPJST.

Uninsurable Youth

Any youth deemed uninsurable according to SPJST underwriting guidelines and whose parent/guardian is a member. The youth can partially participate in the SPJST Youth Program in the following ways:

- Attend youth club meetings and activities; however, youth may not serve as a youth club officer.
- Earn merit points; however, youth is ineligible for the SPJST Scholarship Program.

- Participate in District and State Youth Achievement Days (YAD) and contests.

- Participate in district meetings and outings.

- Attend SPJST camp at the discretion of the District Youth Counselor. Youth must pay the normal camp fee and must be accompanied by an adult family member of the same sex with a current SPJST life insurance certificate in force and who has paid the camp fee.

Veštník

SPJST’s weekly newspaper.

Youth Achievement Day (YAD)

Youth members, ranging from those who have completed kindergarten as of June 1 of the YAD year to high school senior, compete in craft, talent, and royalty contests on the district level. Youth clubs compete in scrapbook and poster contests. Youth clubs also exhibit the beseda dance. Contests are held in the seven SPJST districts in June and July. First place winners in all contests advance to State YAD competition in August in Temple.

Youth Program

All SPJST members entering kindergarten through high school senior and adults working with the youth such as leaders, assistants, District Youth Counselors, State Fraternal Director, and Supreme Lodge President. Youth members are divided as follows:

- Juniors - Ages Entering Kindergarten or Age 5 to 12 Years
- Teens - Ages 13 Years to High School Senior

Youth Leader

The person elected by the local lodge to guide the youth in an advisory capacity. Assistants help the youth leader as needed or requested.

Youth Year

June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2020.

Youth Program Structure

Name

SPJST Youth Program.

Purpose

To provide a well-balanced educational, physical, and social program for the benefit of all SPJST members in good standing, entering kindergarten to high school senior.

Mission

To provide a well-rounded educational, patriotic, and social program.

Organization

Age Divisions:

Juniors - Ages Entering Kindergarten or Age 5 to 12 Years

Teens - Ages 13 Years to High School Senior

Each lodge will determine if there will be a club for all ages combined or if there will be a junior club and a teen club. Equal activities must be planned for both youth clubs or in the case of one youth club, both age groups.

Leadership Structure

Supreme Lodge President

(Head of the Youth Program)

State Fraternal Director

District Youth Counselor/Assistant DYC

Lodge Youth Leader/Assistant Youth Leader

Leader-In-Training (LIT)

The Supreme Lodge President and State Fraternal Director have jurisdiction over all phases of the SPJST Youth Program.

Organizing a Youth Club

To organize a new youth club or reactivate an inactive club:

1. Request permission from the local lodge.
2. Secure at least one youth leader who is a member of the lodge and who is willing to organize the youth club. The lodge must secure at least five youth who are members of the lodge and who are willing to join the youth club and become active members.
3. Contact the DYC to meet with the youth leader to help organize the club.
4. Select a certain place and time to meet each month with the approval of the members present and lodge officers.
5. Elect youth club officers and appoint committee chairmen by the third meeting.

Youth Club Policy

Extensions of Adult Lodge

Youth clubs at local lodges are extensions of the adult or “parent” lodge, not separate entities. They exist by virtue and because of the local lodge. If there were no local lodge, then there would be no youth club.

Youth Club Reports

It is very essential that a report be presented about youth club activities in the adult lodge meeting every month. This report should include the financial status (treasury) of the youth club. While we generally subscribe to the policy that what monies or funds are raised by the youth club belong to the youth club, it makes for a better relationship if the lodge knows what the youth club is doing, how the money is being spent, and what the status of the funds are. That way, if the youth club ever runs short of funds, the adult lodge will be more inclined to perhaps grant funds to the youth club. However, if the adult lodge never receives a report on any of the youth activities and the youth club operates as a separate and exclusive unit, the adult lodge is not apt to look favorably upon any request that the youth club may have.

Furthermore, the funds of the youth club are subject to audit just as the funds of the lodge are. In other words, there has to be some control and accountability on the youth club and its activities.

Youth Club Eligibility

Youth clubs must maintain five members in order to receive any monetary allocations or incentive awards.

District Youth Counselor’s (DYC) Role and Responsibilities

DYC Elections

The DYC is an elected officer of the district. The assistant DYC is also elected by the district during the district’s annual spring meeting. The newly elected DYC and assistant DYC will assume office following the district’s annual spring meeting.

If a district fails to elect or loses a DYC, the State Fraternal Director may directly assist with matters needing immediate attention until the next district meeting or until a new DYC can be elected.

District Camp

The DYC selects the dates for camp as requested by the State Fraternal Director. Each district will camp at Camp Kubena in Ledbetter, Texas. The DYC shall conduct a camp orientation class for the chaperones and staff before camp begins.

District Meetings

The DYC initiates and conducts all youth programs at the district meetings.

District Social

The DYC, provided that funds are available, plans and coordinates at least one district-wide social for all youth members in the district per year.

District Training

The DYC sets the date and arranges for the location of district training classes. All costs connected with district training classes come out of each district's youth fund or other funds available from the district treasury. This includes mileage, meals, and whatever other expenses arise that the DYC chooses to compensate.

District Youth Achievement Day

Each DYC is responsible for the date and location of his/her district YAD. YAD responsibilities include selecting judges, coordinating prizes, and organizing and recruiting workers. Immediately after YAD, the DYC will forward the entry cards and attachments of all first, second, and third place winners to the State Fraternal Director.

Standards for Selecting YAD Judges

- ★ Not an immediate relative of anyone competing in YAD. Immediate relative includes mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, sister, brother, aunt, or uncle.
- ★ Has formal training or experience in the assigned category.

Youth Club Visits

The DYC is expected to visit each youth club in his/her district at least once during the year. If he/she is not invited by the youth leader for a certain date, the DYC will notify the youth leader in advance when he/she will make an annual visit.

Youth Leader Communication

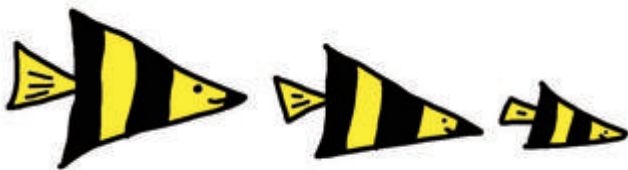
Each DYC communicates with his/her youth leaders on a regular basis (at least once per quarter). The DYC will conduct an orientation with a new youth leader.

Publicity

The DYC is responsible for the publicity of district youth events, including YAD and camp, to be published in the *Veštík* and local media outlets (newspaper, radio, television, community bulletins, internet), when possible.

Reports

The DYC is required to submit an annual report to the State Fraternal Director and Supreme Lodge President no later than 30 days following his/her district's annual spring meeting. The DYC submits quarterly reports, including youth club contacts and district youth fund activity, to the State Fraternal Director.



Youth Leader's Role and Responsibilities

Youth Leader Elections

The youth leader is elected by the local lodge in its annual meeting, usually held in November. The youth leader selects his/her assistant(s) and submits the name(s) to the local lodge for approval.

The youth leader is accountable to the local lodge and the District Youth Counselor.

The youth club is under the direct supervision of the elected youth leader.

Youth Leader's Responsibilities

- ★ Consults with the president of the local lodge on all important youth club decisions.
- ★ Presents a monthly youth club report to the youth club and to the adult lodge.
- ★ Coordinates and plans with the youth club president the meeting agenda and the order of business.
- ★ Supervises youth club business handled by youth club officers and committee chairmen.
- ★ Guides youth members in planning socials and trips. There must be at least two socials annually; however, there is no limit to the number of socials the membership and leadership wish to have. One each month is suggested.
- ★ Coordinates and supervises all fundraising activities.
- ★ **Must*** attend district training class and state youth leaders' workshop for training and updates on the current youth year's information.
- ★ **Must*** conduct monthly youth club meetings.
- ★ **Must*** have an SPJST life insurance certificate in force.
- ★ **Must*** participate at district functions and district activities, including district meetings.
- ★ Attends all youth club committee meetings as advisor.
- ★ Communicates with the youth club members' parents on a regular basis concerning youth club activities via newsletters, calendar of events, phone, email, etc.
- ★ Submits quarterly reports and youth club roster on time to the State Fraternal Director.

**Denotes change to Youth Club Handbook from previous year.*

- ★ Records the merit points on all active youth members. These should be kept monthly and sent to the State Fraternal Director.
- ★ Guides youth in preparing for District and State YAD (craft, talent, royalty, scrapbook, poster, beseda).
- ★ Assists the DYC in coordinating and preparing District YAD.
- ★ **Must*** submit at least one audit report annually by March 1 or your district spring meeting. All audit reports will be forwarded to the DYC.*

Assistant Youth Leader

The assistant youth leader is under the direct supervision of the youth leader. The assistant helps the youth leader as needed or requested.

In determining the number of assistant youth leaders needed, it is suggested to have one for every 10 active youth club members.

Leader-In-Training (LIT)

Eligibility

A Leader-In-Training (LIT) is an active high school-aged youth (freshman to senior) who is deemed responsible and trustworthy by his/her youth leader and district youth counselor.

The youth club member may attend the LIT workshop, held in June, after completing a Leader-In-Training application and an SPJST camp application. New youth to the LIT program must attend the LIT workshop in June.* LITs with a certificate from the State Fraternal Director will attend and assist with their district's summer camping session. LITs will also assist their youth leaders in their youth clubs throughout the year.

Opportunities

LITs have the opportunity to be positive influences on the lives of the youth club members, while developing important lifelong skills and having the experience of their lives. LITs assist their youth leaders and work with youth club members in fun-filled, educational, and challenging activities and programs. LITs:

- ★ Gain valuable experience in positions of leadership and responsibility.
- ★ Utilize, express, and develop their creative skills and talents.
- ★ Enrich youth club members' lives and their own by gaining an understanding of Czech culture, traditions, and values.

- ★ Learn the keys to successful teamwork.
- ★ Develop public speaking skills.
- ★ Enhance problem-solving skills.
- ★ Develop program ideas from concept to reality.
- ★ Are a positive influence in the development of children.
- ★ Work under guidance and direction of a youth club leader and DYC.

Youth Club Member Role and Responsibilities

- ★ SPJST life insurance certificate-holding members who are entering kindergarten or age 5 to high school senior. Ages are determined by the age of the youth on June 1 of the current youth year.
- ★ Current life insurance premiums.
- ★ Follows the Youth Program rules and regulations, as outlined in the *SPJST Youth Club Handbook* and *SPJST By-Laws*.
- ★ Member of the youth club in the lodge where the insurance certificate is assigned; however, if there is no youth club in the lodge, a youth can qualify for District YAD and camp by attending a majority of the adult lodge meetings. Additionally, a youth may earn points in the merit point system by attending youth club meetings of a neighboring lodge.
- ★ Current youth club dues, if applicable. Some youth clubs charge a nominal fee for youth club membership. Dues must be current, if applicable, to be eligible to vote or attend socials.
- ★ Attends at least a majority of the meetings during the youth year.

Active Youth Club Membership Privileges

- ★ Can hold office, serve as a committee chairman, and serve on committees in the youth club.
- ★ Can participate in all SPJST programs (see program guidelines).
- ★ Can participate and vote in the meetings.

*Denotes change to Youth Club Handbook from previous year.



SPJST Youth Club Democracy

Youth Club Meeting Guidelines

- ★ Each youth club must and can have only one monthly business meeting. Special meetings may be called when necessary. The youth club will meet monthly, irrespective of the frequency of the adult lodge meetings.
- ★ The time, date, and place of meetings should remain consistent. If a change is necessary, it should be announced at the previous meeting with the approval of the members.

The youth club's annual meeting is held in March. Officers and committee chairmen are elected. Installations of officers should be held following the elections or no later than the June meeting. New officers and committee chairmen take office June 1.
- ★ Youth club officers include: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and reporter.
- ★ All members of the youth club will be assigned to a committee if they do not hold an office.
- ★ Any time a committee meeting is called, the youth leader or assistant youth leader will be present in an advisory capacity. The youth club president or vice president will also be present.
- ★ When it is mutually beneficial, members of one youth club may meet and hold activities with a neighboring youth club.

Order of Business Meeting

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. SPJST Youth Club Motto
4. Moment of Silence in Memory of Departed and Sick Members
5. Roll Call
6. Introduce New Members and Guests
7. Minutes
8. Correspondence
9. Treasurer's Report
10. Committee Reports
11. Youth Leader's Report

12. Old Business
13. New Business
14. Announcements
15. Adjournment

Conducting Youth Club Business

SPJST Youth Clubs practice democracy and parliamentary procedure in their meetings. Business is introduced in a meeting by a main motion. Eight steps are needed to process a main motion. Two of these involve obtaining the floor. Six steps are involved in actually handling the main motion.

Obtaining the Floor

1. Addressing the Chair (presiding officer).
A member stands and says, "Mr. (or Madam) President."
2. Assigning the Floor
The chair recognizes the member and assigns the floor (that is, gives the right to speak) by calling the member's name or nodding.

Handling a Motion

1. Making the motion
A member introduces a motion by saying, "I move that . . . (states the motion)."
2. Seconding the Motion
Without standing, another member says, "I second the motion" or "I second" or simply "second." If there is no second, your motion will not be considered.
3. Stating the Motion
The chair states the motion, "It is moved and seconded that . . ." and opens it to debate by saying, "Is there any debate?" or "Is there any discussion?"
4. Debating the Question
After stating the motion, the chair looks toward the maker of the motion who has the right to speak first in debate. The maker must claim this right immediately or lose it.
5. Putting the Question.
When debate seems to have stopped, the chair again says, "Is there further debate?" or "Is there further

discussion?” (Silence gives consent.) The chair puts the question to vote by saying: “The question is on the adoption of the motion that (repeating the motion). Those in favor, say ‘aye.’ Those opposed, say ‘no.’” The chair pauses for each vote, listening carefully.

6. **Announcing the Result of the Vote**
The chair announces, “The ayes have it and the motion is carried.” or “The noes have it and the motion is lost.” The chair may then add a brief explanation of the resulting action and steps needed to carry out the decision. Action is not complete until the chair has announced the results of the vote and the next item of business.

Youth Club Officers and Their Roles

The youth club officers are the official board of the youth club. The official board has the authority to act on matters that need immediate attention and cannot wait for the next regular meeting. This board has the authority to meet and deliberate on items to be brought up at the next regular meeting. They should get information, prices, detail, etc. to present to the members.

President

- ★ Starts the meeting on time
- ★ Presides at all meetings
- ★ Announces the business to come before the assembly in the proper order
- ★ Responsible for maintaining order during meetings
- ★ Gives overall direction and ideas
- ★ Official representative of the youth club
- ★ Is the ex-officio member of all committees

Vice President

- ★ Presides at the meetings in the absence of the president
- ★ Assists the president
- ★ Oversees all committee chairmen
- ★ Sees to it that committees are performing their assigned tasks and duties

Secretary

- ★ Records all proceedings during meetings and keeps minutes up-to-date at all times
- ★ Records all motions and votes during regular or special-called meetings
- ★ Processes all correspondence
- ★ Reads minutes of preceding meetings and makes the corrections or additions as needed
- ★ Supplies ballots at elections

Treasurer

- ★ Reports all bills and income and gives a balance at each meeting
- ★ Keeps exact and current records of funds
- ★ Keeps exact record of all membership dues

Reporter

- ★ A member of the publicity committee
- ★ Reports to the *Veštník* at least once per month
- ★ Reports to other local news media on youth club activities
- ★ Publicizes special events or socials

Flag Bearer (Optional)

- ★ Knows the Pledge of Allegiance
- ★ Knows the SPJST Youth Club Motto
- ★ Knows how to carry the flags
- ★ Knows the proper placement of the flags
- ★ Knows the proper procedure for folding the flag

Sergeant-at-Arms (Optional)

- ★ Knows and executes the rules and regulations of the SPJST Youth Program
- ★ Helps maintain order during meetings, at the request of the presiding officer

Assistant Secretary (Optional)

- ★ Learns the duties of the secretary
- ★ Takes the minutes in the secretary’s absence
- ★ Presents the secretary’s report when the secretary is absent

Assistant Treasurer (Optional)

- ★ Learns the duties of the treasurer
- ★ Takes the place of the treasurer and presents the treasurer’s report in the treasurer’s absence

Youth Club Committees and Their Roles

Membership

- ★ Plans ways to get new members through invitation, contests, personal contact, phone, etc.
- ★ Introduces new members at meetings
- ★ Contacts members who have been absent and encourages them to return

New Ideas

- ★ Initiates new ideas for socials, parties, etc.
- ★ Does public relations work

Photography

- ★ Takes pictures at all youth functions
- ★ Supplies pictures to the scrapbook committee for use in the scrapbook
- ★ Sends pictures with captions and news articles to the *Veštník* and local news media for publication

Poster

- ★ Exhibits the poster when needed
- ★ Has poster ready for judging at District Youth Achievement Day

Publicity

- ★ Advertises all youth club activities, meetings, etc.
- ★ Notifies all members of meetings, socials, etc. by phone, mail, email or personal contact
- ★ Writes letters of information to the *Veštník* and local news media
- ★ Keeps the membership informed of upcoming events

Refreshments

- ★ Arranges for refreshments at all events when needed (socials, meetings, etc.)
- ★ Decides the refreshments for each activity, unless otherwise specified
- ★ Assigns members whose turn it is to furnish their part of the refreshments

Scrapbook

- ★ Keeps the official youth club scrapbook up-to-date
- ★ Exhibits the scrapbook when needed
- ★ Has scrapbook ready for judging at District Youth Achievement Day

Social

- ★ Suggests activities or socials to the members to be voted on during the business meeting
- ★ Takes care of details, planning, etc. for socials and activities

Sunshine

- ★ Sends cards to members when they are ill
- ★ Notifies other members, president, and youth leader when a member is ill

Elections

Held in March

Elections for officers and committee chairmen are held in the March youth club meeting. Installation of officers should be held in May following youth club officer training. Training date to be determined by District Youth Counselor. New officers and committee chairmen take office June 1.

Nominations

- ★ A nominating committee consisting of the youth leader and assistant(s) will select eligible nominees for each office.
- ★ Consent from all nominated must be received prior to the report at the annual (election) meeting.
- ★ Nominations from the membership in addition to those submitted by the nominating committee must be permitted and encouraged.

- ★ Only the members present should be nominated unless there is a good reason for the absence.
- ★ The vice president and all assistant officers can be nominated to the office they have been working with.

Officer Eligibility

Eligible for election is anyone who is an active member in good standing who has attended a majority of the meetings or had a good reason for being absent (determined by the youth leader). This is applicable to youth clubs organized six months or longer.

Terms of Office

The term of office is one year from June 1 to May 31. No one can hold the same office or serve as the same committee chairman for more than two consecutive years. If a youth club officer is absent from three consecutive meetings, the youth leader has the authority to replace the officer.

Committees

Following the election, each committee chairman may ask for volunteers for that committee. Every member shall be assigned to a committee. The chairman should call on his/her committee to do some of the jobs during the year. Committee meetings should be called soon after the election to make plans for the year.

Vacancies

In case there is a vacancy in an office or chairmanship, the position will be filled by the assistant. An election will be held at the next meeting to fill the vacancy created by moving up the assistant.

Election Procedures

1. Count the members eligible to vote. They must have their dues current and be in good standing.
2. Elect each office individually.
3. Read the duties of the office being elected.
4. Ask for nominations from the membership for each office.
5. Hand out ballots for voting to be picked up by the tabulating committee. (Secretary supplies ballots).
6. The tabulation committee (two members and the youth leader) counts the votes. The president selects one member, and the vice president selects one member to count the votes.
7. Announce the winners and record their names and offices in the minutes of the meeting.
8. All those elected must receive a majority of the votes.



Merit Point System: What Is It and How It Works

What is the Merit Point System?

Youth club members earn merit points for participating in SPJST lodge, district and state activities. At the end of the youth year, points are totaled and the youth with the highest points in the youth club receive cash awards.

Contest Dates

The Merit Point Contest begins on June 1 of each year and concludes on May 31 of the following year. Only activities meriting points during that time period may be included in the contest.

Age Divisions

The age of the youth on June 1 of the current contest will be the recognized age in the Merit Point Contest.

Merit Point Contest Age Divisions

- Junior - Entering Kindergarten or Age 5 to 12 Years**
- Teen - Ages 13 Years to High School Senior**

The Rules

The youth leader or assistant youth leader is responsible for keeping track of the merit points for each active member of the youth club. The points are to be sent to the State Fraternal Director on the Quarterly and Merit Point Reports each quarter. Youth club members are also encouraged to keep up with their points and turn them in to the youth leader on a quarterly basis. This system helps both the youth leader and the youth member keep better records of youth participation.

Current, official Quarterly and Merit Point Reports, available from the State Fraternal Director may only be used in the Merit Point Contest.

The Quarterly and Merit Point Reports sent to the State Fraternal Director by the youth leader will be kept on file for at least six months following the conclusion of the contest.

Merit points are earned for only those activities listed under Youth Point Values. An activity can only earn points in one category on the point sheet.

When in doubt about any activity earning points, contact the State Fraternal Director prior to the conclusion of the contest.

Everyone will be subject to the same rules in every contest. Failure to comply with any rule shall mean immediate withdrawal.

Merit Point Awards

First through fifth place awards are presented in the junior and teen divisions of each youth club. The amount of points that top winners receive in both divisions will determine where the point rankings of the first through fifth winning categories begin. **First place** winners will be those equal to and 20 points below the top place winner in their age division. **Second Place** will be 21 to 40 points below the top winner in their age division. **Third place** will be 41 to 60 points below the top winner in their age division. **Fourth place** will be 61 to 80 points below the top winner in their age division. **Fifth place** will be 81 to 100 points below the top winner in their age division.

Awards are presented on the lodge, district, and state levels in the junior and teen merit point contests. At each District YAD, the Home Office presents first through fifth place awards to qualifying junior and teen youth club members. The junior and teen with the most points in each district also receive recognition. In the event of a tie, all who tied for first place will receive the award. A youth may only receive the state award once in the age division. State Teen and State Junior awards are presented at State YAD.

Lodge Junior and Teen Point Awards

First Place	\$30
Second Place	\$25
Third Place	\$20
Fourth Place	\$15
Fifth Place	\$10

District Junior and Teen Point Awards

First Place	\$20
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State Junior and Teen Point Awards

First Place	\$25 and Plaque
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How to Earn Merit Points

Participation in the activities listed below will enable youth club members to earn merit points.

1. SPJST Youth Club

Meetings and Activities

Attending youth club meetings, district meetings and activities, and District/State YAD.

★★★★★ 5 Points Each ★★★★★

- Regular youth club meetings.
Maximum of 12 per youth year.
- District meetings.
Maximum of two per youth year.
- District youth activities.
Maximum of four per youth year.
- Attend/participate in District YAD.
Maximum of one per youth year.
- Attend/participate in State YAD.
Maximum of one per youth year.

2. District and State

Youth Achievement Day (YAD)

★★ 2 Points Each ★★

District YAD

- Craft entries. *Maximum of five entries.*
- Individual talent. *Maximum of one entry.*
- Group talent. *Maximum of one entry.*
- Royalty. *Maximum of one entry.*
- Beseda. *Maximum of one entry.*

3. District Camp and

Leader-In-Training (LIT) Workshop

Participating in camp or Leader-In-Training (LIT) workshop. Youth must attend all scheduled days to receive credit. Activity absence must be excused by the DYC for district camp and by the State Fraternal Director for the LIT workshop. Then, points are awarded accordingly.

★★★★★ 5 Points Each ★★★★★

- Camp.
Maximum of one per youth year.
- Leader-In-Training Workshop.
Maximum of one per youth year.

4. Youth Club-Sponsored

Community Service Projects

Participating in youth club-sponsored community service projects. Youth earn points for a maximum of one community service project each quarter.

★★ 2 Points Each ★★

Maximum of four per youth year.

Community Service Project Examples

- Visiting rest homes and singing or reading to residents.
- Making tray favors for rest homes.
- Doing yard work for the elderly.
- Collecting toys, clothing, canned goods, etc. for an organization and then delivering the items to the organizations as a group.
- Preparing food baskets for less fortunate families.
- Cleaning the community park.
- A youth may only receive points once per year for each ongoing collection (ex. aluminum cans, newspaper/magazine recycling, etc.) or ongoing project (watering trees at the lodge hall, etc.)

Community Service Project Guidelines

- As many youth as possible should be involved in the project. (Youth leader and youth members will decide on community projects.)
- Projects should serve a definite community purpose and require some advance planning.
- The youth must be involved in the total project. Donating money out of the youth club treasury to a cause is not sufficient. Youth must be involved in earning the money that is donated.

5. Youth Club-Sponsored Join Hands Day and National Make a Difference Day

★★ 2 Points Each ★★

Maximum of two per youth year.

Participating in a youth club- or lodge-sponsored Join Hands Day or National Make a Difference Day activity. Join Hands Day is held the first Saturday in May. National Make a Difference Day is held the fourth Saturday in October. For more information, please refer to <http://www.usaweekend.com/diff-day/>.



6. *Veštník* Projects

Veštník Projects are published at the beginning of each month in the *Veštník* and are also available from lodge youth leaders. Completion of project with at least 70 percent accuracy and submitted by due date is required to earn point(s).

★ 1 Point Each ★

Maximum of 12 per youth year.

7. SPJST Contests and SPJST 100 Pennies Scholarship Fund Drive

★★ 2 Points Each ★★

- Minimum \$2 Donation to SPJST 100 Pennies Scholarship Fund Drive. *Maximum of one per youth year.*

★★★★★ 5 Points Each ★★★★★

- Flag Day Contest.
Maximum of one entry.
- Camp Tee-Shirt Design Contest.
Maximum of one entry.
- Christmas Ornament Contest.
Maximum of one entry.
- Decorated Rock Contest.
Maximum of one entry.

8. *Veštník* Submissions

All youth are encouraged to write letters and/or submit photos, original artwork, and/or original articles, reviews, or verses to SPJST's weekly newspaper, *Veštník*.

★ 1 Point Each ★

Maximum of 3 per quarter.

9. Promoting Czech Heritage

Any display of Czech heritage in a public arena. Examples include but are not limited to beseda, Czech dancing, or performing or entering any contest with any entry that promotes Czech heritage.

★ 1 Point Each ★

Maximum of 4 per youth year.

Quarterly merit point report forms and other SPJST Youth Program materials are available from local lodge youth leaders or the State Fraternal Director. For any questions or information about the SPJST Youth Program, please contact State Fraternal Director Frank Horak at:

800.727.7578 • Fax: 254.774.7447

Email: frankh@spjst.com





Youth Achievement Day: What Is It and How It Works

What is Youth Achievement Day (YAD)?

Youth Achievement Day consists of the following contests and exhibitions.

Craft Contests
Talent Contests
Royalty Contest
Scrapbook Contest
Poster Contest
Beseda Dance Exhibition

Each district sponsors a YAD in which local lodge youth club members compete for district honors. First place district winners go on to compete at State YAD to be held Saturday, August 3, 2019, at the Frank W. Mayborn Center in Temple.

Who Can Enter?

Active youth club members, who have completed their kindergarten year to high school senior, who attended seven out of 12 youth club meetings during the youth year, and who perform constructive activities in the lodge are eligible for the YAD contests.

Youth club members participating at YAD must have an insurance certificate in force by the previous youth year and must have attended at least seven meetings.

New members joining after June 1 must have attended a majority of meetings since the join date. Certificates must be issued no later than January 31 in order to participate in YAD for that year.

Youth in lodges where there are no youth clubs can enter the YAD contest if they attend seven out of 12 adult meetings. Youth leaders will verify eligibility of each contestant selected to compete in District YAD.

All YAD contestants must be single and not pregnant or a parent.

How Do You Enter?

A YAD contestant must pre-register for all contests by completing a separate YAD entry card for each contest to be entered. YAD entry cards are available from the youth leader, DYC, or State Fraternal Director.

Each card must be filled out completely on both sides and returned to the youth leader. The youth leader will be responsible for getting all entry cards and attachments/inclusions (see below) to the DYC 20 days before District YAD or as determined by DYC. Contestants must submit the following with their YAD cards:

Craft Entry Cards

Hobby Kit Entries - Instructions must be included with craft cards.

Dessert Entries - Typed recipe cards must be included with craft cards.

Royalty Entry Cards

King and Queen Contestants - Speeches and autobiographies must be included with royalty cards. Autobiography sheets are available from the youth leader, DYC, or State Fraternal Director.

Duke and Duchess Contestants - Autobiographies must be included with royalty cards.

Talent Entry Cards

Vocal - CD or USB flash drive that contains only the song to be used for competition must be included with talent cards. Contestants are encouraged to bring their own back-up sound player to ensure their music can be played during their performance. This measure should be taken to ensure that there are no compatibility problems with the CD or USB flash drive and the audio equipment used at YAD.*

General YAD Rules

★ **Registration** - All YAD contestants must be present to register their entries and receive any awards. All exceptions must have prior approval from the DYC at District YAD (State Fraternal Director at State YAD). It is the responsibility of the contestant to inform the DYC or State Fraternal Director when he/she arrives.

*Denotes change to Youth Club Handbook from previous year.

★ Professional Status - Youth may compete in all YAD contests in which they are not professional. A youth is considered professional if pay or other valuable consideration was accepted for services rendered. Favors or courtesies are excluded (plaques, trophies, certificates, etc.).

★ False Statement - If it is ascertained that a youth has made a false statement in regards to any entry, the youth shall be excluded from competition and forfeit all awards.

★ Entry Protection - Every precaution is taken to protect all entries, but in no case will SPJST be responsible for loss, damage, theft, breakage or for any other form of loss.

★ Entry Energy Source - If your craft entry requires electrical power of any kind you will be required to provide an energy source. The energy source must be battery-operated. (No gas generators or electrical cords will be allowed.)

★ First Place State Craft Winners may *not* compete in the same category the following year. Exception – unless changing age group.

★ First Place State Individual Talent Winners may *not* compete the following year in the same category of talent. Categories include all genres of singing, dance, etc. Exception – unless changing age groups.

★ First Place State Group Talent Winners in any category may participate the following year in that same category or another category as long as the group performs a different number. (Example: Group may sing “Amazing Grace” one year, and the next year sing “The Johnny Appleseed Song.”) There will be no sit-out period for group talent winners.

★ Winning Entry Cards - Immediately following District YAD, the DYC will forward the entry cards and attachments of all first, second, and third place winners to the State Fraternal Director.

★ State YAD Registration - All State YAD entries will be accepted at registration. If a discrepancy arises with an entry’s qualifications, a 10-point deduction will be made to the entry’s score. The entry will not be removed from the contest. The State Fraternal Director and/or Supreme Lodge President will inform the contestant’s DYC. The DYC will then inform the contestant’s youth leader. The contestant’s youth leader will inform the contestant.

★ District YAD Disqualification - All District YAD entries will be accepted at registration. All entries will be checked by the State Fraternal Director or appointed Home Office representative. If a discrepancy arises with an entry’s qualification, the entry will be removed from the contest. The State Fraternal Director or appointed Home Office representative will inform the contestant’s DYC. The DYC will then inform the contestant’s youth leader. The contestant’s youth leader will inform the contestant.

★ State YAD Craft Committee - At State YAD, a craft committee, consisting of DYC’s, will have a final inspection of all entries to check for rule violations. If a discrepancy arises with an entry’s qualifications, a 10-point deduction may be made to the entry’s score.

★ State YAD Talent/Royalty Committee - At State YAD, a talent/royalty committee will determine if talent acts/royalty presentations violate any rules during competitions, including performance time. No one is allowed to sit with the committee. No outside protests will be allowed.*

★ Rules and Regulations - Everyone is subject to the same rules and regulations. Anything that is a violation of the rules will result in disqualification from that particular contest.*

District Winners

★ The top three winners, except Photography winners, at District YAD will retain their entries for competition at State YAD. The top three Photography entries will be sent to the Home Office by the State Fraternal Director (or Home Office representative) after District YAD. The entries will be pre-scanned for the awards presentation show at State YAD.* In the event first place winners are unable to compete at State, the second place winner will advance. If the second place winner cannot compete, the third place winner will advance to State. If a contestant cannot compete at State YAD, the contestant or his/her youth leader or DYC must notify the State Fraternal Director no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday before State YAD with any cancellations or changes.

Tie Breaker

★ In case of a tie for first place, there will not be a run-off among the contestants. Ties will be broken for first place in all categories and for second place in royalty. The DYC (State Fraternal Director at State YAD) will determine if any other ties need to be broken.

If scores are tied after the judging, the tabulation overseer will determine the winner by reviewing the contestant’s scores. The contestant with the greatest number of first place scores from the judges will be the first place winner.

Tabulation Example

	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Total
Contestant 1	95	85	97	277
Contestant 2	93	88	96	277

Contestant 1 is the winner since he/she has the two highest place scores.

**Denotes change to Youth Club Handbook from previous year.*

Competition Results Procedures

The following procedures regarding errors in competition entries and results will be followed at the district competition.

Announced Contest Winners

Anyone having a question regarding the announcement of contest winners must follow this procedure:

1. Questions at District YAD regarding the announcement of contest winners must be directed to the DYC who then confers with the State Fraternal Director.
2. The DYC at District YAD will confer privately with the tabulation committee and State Fraternal Director to verify the contest score sheets. The individual(s) questioning the results will not be allowed in the room or shown the score sheets.
3. After the results are verified, the DYC at District YAD will announce to the individual(s) that the results as announced are correct and will stand. If an error is discovered, a complete explanation will be given to the questioning party. It is emphasized that the questioning party is not entitled to see the score or tabulation sheets but does have the right to question the accuracy of the score sheets. In other words, after the request has been made, all figures will be re-checked to see that they are in conformity with the announcement just made. If not, corrective steps will be taken immediately. The announced results will be final.
4. Score sheets will be destroyed by the DYC (State Fraternal Director at State YAD) or designated person within 30 minutes after award announcements.

Contest Entry Eligibility

Anyone having a concern or question regarding the eligibility of a contest entry must follow this procedure:

1. Questions at District YAD regarding the eligibility of contest winners must be directed to the DYC who then confers with the State Fraternal Director within 10 minutes after all awards are announced.
2. If necessary, the DYC at District YAD will confer with the assistants.
3. The DYC at District YAD will then announce his/her decision regarding the eligibility of the entry along with an explanation for the decision.
4. If the disqualification of an entry is necessary, the DYC at District YAD will instruct the judges to disregard the entry. (see General YAD Rules). All decisions are final.

Every attempt should be made to overcome the excitement, emotion and pressure of the occasion to make sure that everything is in order. The audience will not object to the delay if they know what the delay is about.

YAD Scrapbook and Poster Contests

Youth Club Scrapbooks

All youth clubs are encouraged to keep a scrapbook of all youth activities throughout the youth year.

Contest Rules

Scrapbooks must have lodge name and number on the cover. If a youth club does not have all items completed, there will be a 10-point deduction.

Scrapbooks must include a fly sheet with the following information on page one:

- Lodge name and number;
- District number;
- Number of active youth club members;
- Listing of youth club officers;
- Names of scrapbook committee members and their ages;
- Youth leader's name; and
- Assistant youth leader(s) name(s).

Scrapbooks to be judged at the 2019 YAD must include all of the following:

- A cover that reflects the 2018-2019 youth year theme: "Out of This World With SPJST."*
- Record of SPJST youth club members
- News articles pertaining to SPJST youth club activities
- Record of youth club activities including dates, places and events for the 2018-2019 youth year

Sheet size of the scrapbook cannot be larger than 12 inches in one direction and no larger than 18 inches in the other direction.

Computer-generated collage pages will be allowed.

Activities or events on the scrapbook pages should be clearly identified with a general description of the event or activity.

Each lodge may enter one scrapbook at District YAD.

Each district may enter two scrapbooks at State YAD (first and second places at District YAD).

Scrapbook Judging Criteria

Publicity	40 points
Creative Design	30 points
Neatness	15 points
Cover	15 points

Scrapbooks that receive first, second, and third place awards at State YAD will be displayed in the SPJST Home Office for one year.

**Denotes change to Youth Club Handbook from previous year.*

Youth Club Posters

All youth clubs are encouraged to enter a poster at District YAD which depicts the youth club's work or aims.

Contest Rules

Poster display size is no larger than 22 inches by 30 inches.

Posters to be judged at the 2019 YAD must contain the 2018-2019 youth year theme: "Out of This World With SPJST."*

Posters must have SPJST on them.

Posters must have the lodge name and number.

All posters will be judged at their respective District's YAD.

The first and second place posters from each District YAD will compete at State YAD.

Poster Judging Criteria

Development of Theme	40 points
Originality	30 points
Creative Design.....	20 points
Neatness	10 points

All poster entries at State YAD will be displayed in the SPJST Home Office for one year.

YAD Craft Contests

Age Groups

The age of the youth on June 1, 2019, will determine the youth's age group.

Ages Completed Kindergarten to 8 Years

Ages 9 to 11 Years

Ages 12 to 14 Years

Ages 15 Years to High School Senior

Craft Contest Categories

Youth may enter five craft contest entries, each in a different category.

Constructed Items

Dessert

Handicraft

Hobby Kits

Needlework

Photography

Pictorial Arts

Science and Education

Sewing

General Craft Rules

A contestant may not enter more than five entries in craft, each in a different category.

Items must be made by the youth entering them after the previous year's State YAD or the craft entry will be disqualified.

Any article that has been previously exhibited by an individual at an SPJST Youth Achievement Day will not be accepted even if the article has been altered or modified.

Items must be complete before entering. Wet paint, glue, etc. will disqualify the item.

Craft contestants must not include their names or their photos on any part of the entry.

No living things, other than plants, are allowed in any craft contest.

Entries advertising or using any alcohol, tobacco, or drug product logo will not be accepted.

All craft entry instructions and directions must be legibly written or typed on the entry cards. No attachments (except recipe cards in Desserts and kit instructions in Hobby Kits) are allowed. Recipe cards must be typed.

Only authorized personnel may assist to set up entries at the DYC's or State Fraternal Director's discretion.

Any entry that requires a flat base for transportation must fit the project and be no larger than a 3-foot by 3-foot by 3-foot surface.

Craft Judging Criteria

Dessert (Candies)*

Taste and Texture	35 points
Appearance	25 points
Level of Difficulty.....	25 points
Consistency	15 points

Hobby Kits

Level of Difficulty.....	40 points
Ability to Follow Instructions	40 points
Neatness and Appearance.....	20 points

Photography

Lighting	35 points
Technique	25 points
Creativity and Originality	25 points
Color and Appeal	15 points

Science and Education

Level of Difficulty.....	35 points
Creativity and Design	30 points
Educational Value	25 points
Neatness and Appearance.....	10 points

*Denotes change to Youth Club Handbook from previous year.

Constructed Items
Handicraft
Needlework
Pictorial Arts
Sewing

The criteria listed below applies to the five categories listed above:

- Level of Difficulty.....40 points**
- Creativity and Design40 points**
- Neatness and Appearance.....20 points**

Craft Contest Rules

Constructed Items*

Each year, a different type of building material will be selected for the contest.

- 2019: Copper, Metal, Tin**
- 2020: Clay or Dough Molded**
- 2021: Plastics***

★ For the 2019 contest, the subject matter must be metal.*

Dessert*

Each year, a different type of dessert will be selected for the contest.

- 2019: Candies**
- 2020: Cookies**
- 2021: Kolaches***

- ★ Candies must be displayed on a white, disposable plate and be brought to the competition in a plastic, ziplock-type bag.*
- ★ The number of pieces of candies to enter is 25.*
- ★ No mixes allowed. Candies must be made from scratch.*
- ★ No dipped items, including nuts, fruit, marshmallows, insects, etc.*
- ★ No flour.*
- ★ No refrigerated items.
- ★ The **typed** recipe must accompany the YAD entry card on an index card no larger than 4-inches by 6-inches.
- ★ Only the dessert item will be judged.
- ★ Judges will taste all entries.

★ All State YAD entries in the dessert category will be sold following judging. This includes dessert item and recipe card. All proceeds will benefit the General SPJST Scholarship Fund (one-half) and Camp Kubena (one-half).

Candies - Definitions*

- ★ **Divinity:** Very sweet, very soft candy made from white or brown sugar, whipped whites of eggs, corn syrup, water, salt, and flavoring. If brown sugar is used instead of white sugar, the candy is called sea foam. Some recipes for divinity candy specify ingredients such as peppermint, cinnamon, chocolate, or candied fruits for flavoring.
- ★ **Fudge:** A thick, firm, smooth candy that is set up in a pan and cut into squares. Candy can be cooked or uncooked. Degree of difficulty increases with cooked recipes. Ingredients usually include butter or margarine, fat derived from chocolate, milk, and sugar. Other flavor variations might include peanut butter, marshmallow, white chocolate, etc. Nuts may be added.
- ★ **Brittles and Other Hard Candies:** Breaks with sharp edges rather than bends, candy mass is somewhat crunchy. These include brittles and lollipops.
- ★ **Toffee:** A candy formed by boiling a sugar mixture to a high temperature, normally soft-crack or hard-crack. Toffee normally has a hard, slightly chewy texture and a rich taste that is gained by adding butter to the sugar mixture. Other additions may include nuts and chocolate. Cracker toffee is not acceptable.
- ★ **Pralines:** This candy may have two different forms.
- ★ **Candy, Other Types:** This includes any candy that is not a fudge, brittle, divinity, or actually not prepared in a microwave, such as fondant, caramel, taffy, and filled or dipped candies such as bon bons or turtles.

Handicraft

Any constructed or assembled item which does not qualify for any other category. This category includes:

- ★ Cake decorated items
- ★ Ceramics
- ★ Glass etching
- ★ Laminated art (decoupage, etc.)
- ★ Liquid lead items
- ★ Macramé
- ★ Metal punch
- ★ Painting on wood, glass, or cloth
- ★ Paper maché
- ★ Plaster of Paris
- ★ Pre-cut materials such as toothpicks, popsicle sticks, clothespins, matches, etc.
- ★ Pre-fabricated wax
- ★ Stained glass
- ★ No craft project may exceed 3-feet by 3-feet by 3-feet.

**Denotes change to Youth Club Handbook from previous year.*

Hobby Kits

Projects bought in a kit and completed by the youth.

- ★ A copy of the instructions must be attached to the YAD entry card.
- ★ Projects without instructions will be disqualified.
- ★ Kits added to in any way, other than specified in the instructions, will be disqualified.
- ★ No craft project may exceed 3-feet by 3-feet by 3-feet.

Needlework

- ★ Items made entirely by hand.
- ★ Includes embroidery, crocheting, knitting, needle-point, and latch hook.
- ★ All stitches must be visible on front and back of entry. Edges may be finished as long as all stitches are visible.
- ★ Items may be framed (no part of the frame may cover any stitches).

Photography*

Each year, a different type of category will be selected for the contest.

2019: Scenic/Nature

2020: Flowers

2021: Sports*

- ★ All entries must illustrate the current year's category — Scenic/Nature.*
- ★ Subject must be the focal point of the category to be judged. The "scenic/nature" subject in the photograph can be any kind of scenic/nature as long as it is not offensive or depicting alcohol, tobacco, or a drug product.*
- ★ Photographs can be color, black and white, or sepia. Camera effects are permitted. No computer or printer modifications allowed.
- ★ All photographs must be 8-inches by 10-inches with no border.
- ★ Photograph must be taken by the youth; not of the youth, friends, or family.
- ★ Photographs must be displayed in a clear, protective sleeve. No matting, mounting, or framing allowed.

Pictorial Arts

- ★ A painting or drawing on paper, canvas, or poster board.
- ★ No tracing or stencil letters allowed. Rulers and graph paper are allowed.
- ★ May be framed.
- ★ Items may not be behind glass.
- ★ Maximum size not to exceed 360 square inches (excluding frame).
- ★ Additions to the pictorial will disqualify the picture (additions are anything other than paint, ink, pencil, crayon, chalk, or markers).
- ★ Pictures may be sprayed with fix-it.

Sewing

- ★ Items made by using the sewing machine such as clothing, pillows, and quilts.
- ★ No additions, such as glued-on appliques or paint are allowed.
- ★ Sewn-on accessories are acceptable.

Science and Education

- ★ The entry size must be no larger than a standard project board - 36-inches in height by 48-inches in width.
- ★ Scientific experiment.
- ★ Research project.
- ★ Drafting project.
- ★ Collection in which each item is labeled and described.
- ★ No live things, other than plants, allowed.



*Denotes change to Youth Club Handbook from previous year.

YAD Talent Contests

Talent Contest Categories

A lodge is not limited to the number of entries in talent. A youth may compete in a maximum of one individual talent and in a maximum of one group talent.

Individual Talent Contest Group Talent Contest

Talent contests include:

- Dance
- Dramatic
- Gymnastics
- Instrumental
- Vocal
- Other

Other talent types include:

- Pantomime:** A dramatic performance using mute gestures to show action.
- Lip-Sync:** An act in which dancing or acting out a message is performed along with the movement of one's lips in synchronization to a live or recorded accompaniment. Judges will be instructed to use this definition in scoring.

Individual Talent Age Groups

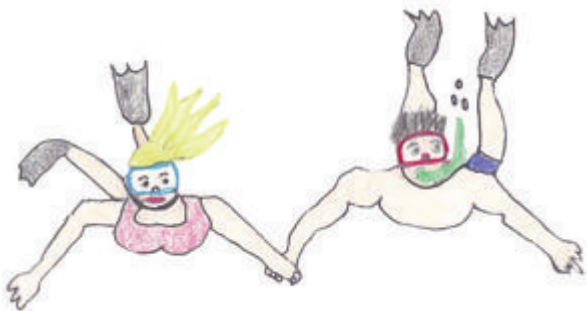
The age of the youth on June 1 will determine the youth's age group:

- Ages Completed Kindergarten to 8 Years
- Ages 9 to 11 Years
- Ages 12 to 14 Years
- Ages 15 Years to High School Senior

Group Talent Age Groups

The age of the youth on June 1 will determine the youth's age group:

- Junior Group**
(Ages Completed Kindergarten to 12 Years)
- Teen Group**
(Ages 13 Years to High School Senior)



General Talent Rules

Setup and Breakdown Time Limits

Individual Talent Setup Time Limit: 2 minutes
Individual Breakdown Time Limit: 2 minutes

Group Talent Setup Time Limit: 4 minutes
Group Talent Breakdown Time Limit: 4 minutes

A penalty of one point per minute per judge will be deducted if contestant exceeds the setup or breakdown time limit.

Performance Time Limits

Individual Talent Performance Time Limit: 3 minutes

Group Talent Performance Time Limit: 5 minutes

A total of three points (one point by each of the three judges) will be deducted if a contestant exceeds the talent performance time limit. Time limit begins when talent voice, music, or action begins. The time limit does not include the talent introduction.

A group talent is defined as two to 15 individuals performing an activity together at one time or separately in support of the other members of the group, but group members cannot perform individually to the exclusion of the rest of the group. In other words, three people cannot sing three separate solos, each solo having nothing to do with the other two, and count themselves as a group, or two people sing portions of a song separately, then sing the last two or three notes together.

A junior youth may compete with a teen group talent, but a teen youth may not compete with a junior group talent. The age of the oldest youth in the group determines the age category of the group talent.

An individual or group talent in twirling, dancing, vocal, band, or musical instrument may use live or recorded accompaniment. For vocal performances, limited background vocals may be allowed, pending DYC's approval. Instrumental performances may not be accompanied by the same type of instrument (live or recorded). Any accompaniment will not be judged, and the judges will be publicly informed to that effect.

A talent contestant may not repeat the same talent number during his/her contest years.

- Music selection must be approved by the DYC. Please list the talent you will be performing on the YAD card. If you are singing or dancing, we must have the title of the song. If you are doing a skit, we must have the title and theme of the skit.
- Contestants using recorded accompaniment must provide a CD/USB flash drive **that contains only the song to be used for competition.** CD/USB flash drive must be ready for play when given to sound crew or a penalty of one point per judge will be assessed.*
- All contestants will provide anything needed for their talents. CD/USB flash drives should be checked out prior to the beginning of YAD to be sure they are working properly. If someone is to assist with any of the equipment, be sure they understand how to help and where to begin the CD/USB flash drive so the talent will start as practiced for the contestant.*
- If any technical difficulties should arise, the contestant should have the opportunity to restart the talent.*
- A standard public address system will be provided by the hosting lodge. The DYC is responsible for all equipment being in good working order at District YAD.
- Contestants will not announce their name, lodge, or hometown. A penalty of five points will be deducted from their total score if they identify themselves in any way to the judges. It is permissible to announce the name of the talent they will perform.

- Talent contestants are not to encourage audience participation in their performance. If contestants do encourage audience participation, they will receive a 10-point penalty.
- No outside assistance with talent acts is allowed. Any outside assistance will result in a 10-point penalty to the contestant's score.
- Applause will be allowed by the audience after each performance. Noise during the performance is discouraged.
- Talent and talent costumes must be in good taste and age appropriate. The DYC at District YAD (State Fraternal Director at State YAD) will determine talent and talent costume appropriateness. Talent must be age appropriate and not offensive to the audience.

Talent Judging Criteria

Technique (Level of Skill Shown).....	40 points
Rendition (Creativity)	25 points
Stage Presence (Poise/Personality)	20 points
Extra Merit	15 points

Beseda Dance

Czechs in Texas have preserved many aspects of their cultural heritage. One of these cultural activities practiced by SPJST youth is the Beseda dance, which is a composite of the many dance steps that were popular in the various provinces and regions of what is now the Czech Republic.



The Beseda Dance is a composite of the many dance steps that were popular in the various provinces and regions of what is now the Czech Republic.

When the people came together for a Beseda, which means visiting or social gathering, they would each perform the dance representing their province. There are actually seven distinctive Beseda dances, one for each of the provinces or regions. The combination of all these folk dances became known as the Beseda dance.

The *Česká Beseda* is the official form danced in the SPJST Youth Program. The *Česká Beseda* features the "Heel and Toe Polka," or "Double Polka." The polka and waltz steps are the most frequently used steps in the Beseda, and they are usually alternated in the dance.

The Beseda is danced by four couples forming a cir-

cle. SPJST Youth Clubs exhibit the Beseda dance at District and State Youth Achievement Days and other events.

Beseda Rules

- The SPJST-edited version of the Czech Beseda (*Česká Beseda*) will be used. CDs and videos are available from the State Fraternal Director.
- There is no limit to the number of Beseda circles per lodge performing at District YAD.
- Dancers from two or more lodges may combine to form a Beseda circle if one lodge does not have enough dancers to form a circle.
- Beseda dancers may enter all other YAD contests.
- Beseda circles are required to perform at State YAD in order to receive their participation awards.

*Denotes change to Youth Club Handbook from previous year.



Youth Achievement Day: Royalty Contests Rules and Judging Criteria

Royalty Categories

Each lodge may field multiple queen and king contestants. The lodge need not have a king contestant in order to have a queen contestant and vice-versa. The lodge may have a duchess to accompany the queen and a duke to accompany the king. In the event that a contestant wins the king or queen competition at district level and does not already have a designated duke or duchess, the District Youth Counselor may assign a duke or duchess from within the district to participate in the state competition.

King Contest

Queen Contest

Duke and Duchess (Not Competing)

King and Queen Ages

High School Freshmen

Through High School Seniors

Duke and Duchess Ages

Ages Completed Kindergarten to 10 Years

General Royalty Rules

Entry Eligibility

- No one who has previously won the State King or State Queen title is eligible to enter the royalty contest again.
- The following youth cannot compete in royalty:
 - Any female who is or has been pregnant or has given birth to a child.
 - Any male who has caused a female to get pregnant.
 - Any youth who was convicted or treated for the use of drugs or alcohol during the past year.
 - Any youth who was convicted for any criminal offense (excluding minor traffic violations) during the past year.
- King and queen contestants must have participated in a previous YAD prior to participating in the royalty competition, unless in the case of a newly-organized youth club.

Competition

State Level

- District queens compete for the title of State Queen.
- District kings compete for the title of State King.
- The competition includes two interview questions, a brief walk before the judges, and the presentation of a prepared speech, not to exceed three minutes. The royalty speech topic must incorporate SPJST and must make up 50 percent of the speech. Royalty speech content shall be presented in a positive manner.

Royalty Speech Topic for 2019*

The topic for the 2019 royalty speeches is:
“Diving Deep With SPJST.”*

- The speech must be in the contestant’s own words.
- The speech time limit is three minutes. A total of three points (one point by each of the three judges) will be deducted if a contestant exceeds the time limit. Time limit begins with the contestant’s first word.
- A king/queen contestant may compete at state if he/she has no competition at district, provided he/she qualifies in the district and presents his/her royalty contest speech at district. All efforts must also be made by the local youth leaders and the DYC to see that there is competition.
- If any technical difficulties should arise, the contestant should have the opportunity to restart the speech.*



*Denotes change to Youth Club Handbook from previous year.

Royalty Entry Cards

All royalty contestants must submit the following to their youth leaders with their royalty entry cards.

Kings and Queens

Speeches and autobiographies must be included with royalty entry card.

Autobiographies are available from the youth leader, DYC or State Fraternal Director.

Dukes and Duchesses

Autobiographies must be included with royalty entry cards.

The youth leader will be responsible for getting all entry cards, speeches, and autobiographies to the DYC 20 days before District YAD. The DYC will notify the king and queen contestants 14 days prior to YAD for approval or changes in the speech concerning the incorporation of SPJST in the contestant's speech.

Attire

Attire for district and state royalty contestants is as follows:

Queens and Duchesses

Floor or tea-length formal gowns.

Kings and Dukes

Dress clothes, including a coat and a tie (no tuxedos).

- The attire does not have to be the same for the district and state royalty contests. This is optional to the contestants. Failure of a king, queen, duke, or duchess to wear the prescribed attire will mean his or her exclusion from the contest. The DYC will determine the attire appropriateness at district, and the Supreme Lodge President and State Fraternal Director will determine the attire appropriateness at state.
- The contestant will have no facial hair and no visible body piercing or tattoos.

Dukes and Duchesses

- A duke or duchess who has previously won at State YAD cannot serve as State Duke or State Duchess again.
- There will be no substitutions allowed for State Duke or State Duchess.
- During the royalty contest, the dukes and duchesses may be asked to give a short response to questions, but they will not be judged.



2019 Speech Topic
"Diving Deep With SPJST"

Royalty Judging Criteria

Interview No. 1	15 points
Interview No. 2	15 points
Speech Content	30 points
(Includes adhering to topic)	
Speech Delivery	30 points
Stage Presence	
(Neatness, Poise, Appearance)	
	10 points

District and State Royalty Rules

The queen and king will reign for one year. If the queen becomes married and/or pregnant during her reign, she must relinquish her title to the first runner-up. If the king becomes married and/or causes a female to get pregnant during his reign, he must relinquish his title to the first runner-up.

State King and State Queen Requirements*

The State King and State Queen are required to make public appearances together with arrangements made by the State Fraternal Director. If the State King or Queen fail to make required appearances, their \$1,500 royalty scholarship will be forfeited. State Royalty must be clean cut and have no facial hair, visible body piercings, or tattoos. State Royalty will be reimbursed for mileage, meals, and other expenses as approved by the Supreme Lodge President/Head of the Youth Department.*

*Denotes change to Youth Club Handbook from previous year.



State Youth Achievement Day Awards and Guidelines

Youth Participation Awards

Each State YAD contestant will receive participation awards as follows:

Beseda Exhibition

\$25 participation award to each performer

Craft Contests

\$5 participation award for each craft category entered

Royalty Contests

\$30 participation award to District Kings and Queens
 \$15 participation award to District Dukes and Duchesses

Talent Contests

\$5 for each talent category entered

Youth Club Participation Awards

Each youth club will receive the following participation awards:

Poster Contest

\$10 participation award

Scrapbook Contest

\$25 participation award

STATE YAD AWARDS



2019 District Youth Achievement Days

- District One
 Sunday, July 14
 Caldwell Civic Center
- District Two
 Saturday, July 13
 Lodge 47, Seaton
- District Three
 Saturday, July 20
 Lodge 183, Arlington
- District Four
 Saturday, July 6
 Lodge 49, Rowena
- District Five
 Sunday, July 21
 Lodge 88, Houston
- District Six
 Sunday, July 7
 Taiton Community Center
- District Seven
 Sunday, July 7
 New Braunfels

State Youth Achievement Day

Saturday, August 3
 Frank W. Mayborn Center
 3303 North 3rd Street • Temple

Winners

Craft Contest

Awards are presented to first, second, and third place winners in each of the following age groups: ages completed kindergarten to 8, ages 9 to 11, ages 12 to 14, and ages 15 to high school senior.

Individual Talent Contest

Awards are presented to first, second, and third place winners in each of the following age groups: ages completed kindergarten to 8, ages 9 to 11, ages 12 to 14, and ages 15 to high school senior.

Group Talent Contest

Individual awards are presented to first, second, and third place category winners in each of the following age groups: Junior Group - ages post-kindergarten to 12 and Teen Group - ages 13 to high school senior.

Poster Contest

First Place - \$20 and rosette ribbon
Second Place - \$15 and rosette ribbon
Third Place - \$10 and rosette ribbon

Scrapbook Contest

First Place - \$30 and rosette ribbon
Second Place - \$25 and rosette ribbon
Third Place - \$20 and rosette ribbon

Royalty Contest

State Queen: Tiara, trophy, engraved watch, flowers, and sash

State King: Scepter, trophy, engraved watch, and sash

State Duchess: Small tiara, trophy, and sash

State Duke: Small scepter, trophy, and sash

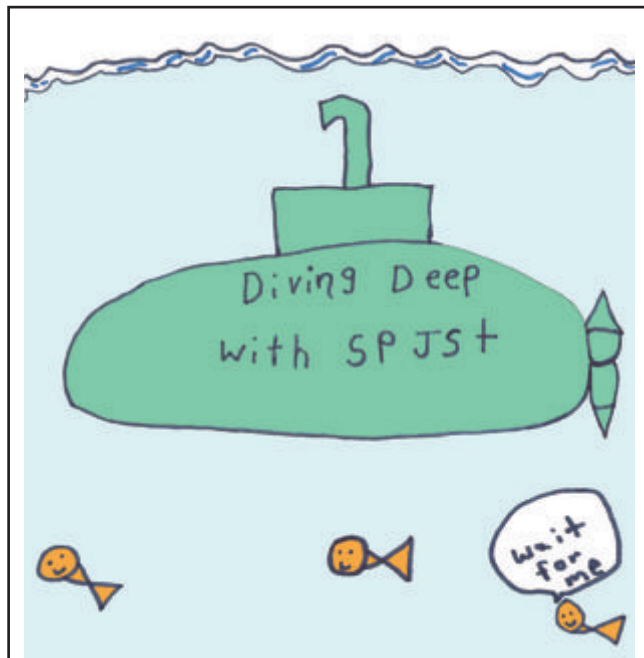
First and second runners-up will receive awards.

After successfully completing their reigns and upon their high school graduations, the State King and State Queen will each receive the SPJST Royalty Scholarship in the amount of \$1,500.

State YAD Award Guidelines

First, second, and third place winners will be announced publicly in craft, poster, scrapbook, special category, talent, and royalty following judging and score tabulation.

Contestants must be present at the time of the awards presentation to accept and receive any award won at State YAD.



Youth Achievement Award

What is it?

The SPJST Youth Achievement Award recognizes the dedicated service and outstanding achievement of SPJST youth club members. This award is a personalized plaque that is presented at District YAD by the District Youth Counselor.

Youth leaders, assistants, or DYCs recommend youth club members for this prestigious award by completing a Youth Achievement Award form, available from the State Fraternal Director, and returning it to their DYC for final approval by June 1.

Award Qualifications

Any youth club member who:

- Is a graduating high school senior;
- Has been an active youth club member the following years: freshman through high school senior;
- Has demonstrated, through dedication and hard work, exceptional leadership abilities and outstanding service on both the youth club and the district levels; and
- Meets the district requirements, pending the district has any additional requirements.



SPJST Summer Camp: What Is It and Who Can Participate

What is it?

SPJST provides summer camping for its youth members. Youth camp funds come from an annual allocation by the SPJST Supreme Lodge. Each of the seven SPJST districts across the state attend camp.

Who can participate?

Camp is provided on the basis of participation in SPJST activities. Pending that the qualifications are met, summer camp is available to all SPJST certificate-holding youth members. Campers must also be in good standing with SPJST. The ages for camp are completed kindergarten to high school senior as of June 1 of the camping year. Graduating high school seniors who are active youth club members may attend camp as a Senior Leader-In-Training (LIT) during the camp session that follows their high school graduation.

Eligibility*

Qualifications for youth to attend SPJST camp are based on the previous youth year (June 1 to May 31). To be eligible to attend camp at no charge, youth members must attend seven out of 12 youth meetings or seven out of 12 adult lodge meetings if the lodge does not have a youth club. Youth members are requested to also attend a majority of the youth activities in the youth club or lodge.

Youth (previous member or new certificate) who do not meet the above qualifications may attend camp for a prorated fee determined by the SPJST Home Office. These funds will be submitted to the State Fraternal Director.

Must be a member by May 31 of the current youth year in order for youth to be eligible to attend camp for a fee. *This rule also applies to those campers who will be paying to attend camp.*

Each camper must submit an online application to the State Fraternal Director no later than May 26. These applications are available through the SPJST website. No one may attend SPJST Camp without a completed SPJST Eligibility Application on file for the current year.

If a youth member with special/medical needs attends camp, the youth must be accompanied by an adult family member of the same sex and with a current SPJST life insurance certificate in force.*

All eligible and qualified SPJST youth are entitled to attend camp with expenses paid in equal proportion from the district's annual camp fund. If camping facilities are limited and elimination is inevitable, the seniority of youth club members will have first consideration. The DYC will notify all leaders at least 15 days before camp what extra costs to expect per camper.

Camp Sessions*

Junior Camp - Ages Completed Kindergarten to Age 12 Years Old

Teen Camp - Ages 13 Years to High School Senior

General Camp Policies

The Supreme Lodge President and the State Fraternal Director have jurisdiction over all phases of the SPJST Youth Program. The SPJST Rules of Conduct for Youth Activities and SPJST Grievance Guidelines at Youth Activities are in effect at all SPJST youth activities. All the rules pertaining to camp, including the guidelines, have been approved by the Supreme Lodge. The rules are clear, and there should be no question as to who is in charge of the planning and arranging for each district camp.

Camp Program and Schedule

The DYC oversees his/her district camp. The State Fraternal Director and/or Supreme Lodge President may attend any of the camps and act in an advisory capacity.

Each district camp must be approved by a committee consisting of the Supreme Lodge President, State Fraternal Director, and the respective District Director before camp funds are approved and allocated.

A schedule of a balanced program of recreational and educational activities will be provided by the camp. This will include swimming, crafts, sports, and if possible, horseback riding. Special activities for teenagers will be included, if possible. The ages of the children will be considered when scheduling physical activities.

All district camps will have a universal theme, craft, and activities/games.

*Denotes change to Youth Club Handbook from previous year.

The DYC will make medical arrangements before camp and have a Camp Health Officer present on camp grounds. Medical staff requirements—a physician, registered nurse, licensed vocational nurse, or a person with an American Red Cross Emergency Response certificate, or its equivalent, shall be in the camp and on call at all times, and will be considered the Camp Health Officer. The ratio will be one medical staff to every 75 camp attendees.

The duty of the DYC and chaperones is to be with the youth.

There will be at least a one-hour rest period after the noon meal for all campers and leaders. This is a quiet time and must be observed.

The night curfew for juniors will be earlier than the night curfew for teenagers. Curfews will be determined at each camp. No unauthorized activities will be allowed after 12 midnight.

Each DYC will prepare a list of supplies and articles for each camper to bring to camp. Campers will be advised if there will be any activity requiring extra money. All details will be published in the *Veštník* prior to camp.

Camp Location and Duration

Each district will be provided camping accommodations at Camp Kubena in Ledbetter, Texas. The length of camp will be a minimum of four nights which includes 10 meal times.

Camp Dress Code

During your stay at SPJST Summer Camp, we want you to have the best experience possible. SPJST has developed the following dress code to assure that no one will feel offended or uncomfortable during his/her camp stay.

- ❑ Clothing: All clothing shall be neat, clean, and acceptable in repair and appearance and shall be worn within the bounds of decency and good taste as appropriate for SPJST events.
- ❑ Articles of clothing which display profanity, products, or slogans which promote tobacco, alcohol, drugs, sex, or in any other way distracting, are prohibited.
- ❑ Excessively baggy or tight clothing, and clothing which advertises gang symbols or affiliation is prohibited.
- ❑ Items of clothing which expose bare midriffs, bare chests, undergarments, or that are transparent (see-through) are prohibited. Tank tops with straps wider than one inch are permitted. Please be advised that spaghetti straps, shirts which expose a bare back, halter tops, and tube tops are prohibited.

- ❑ Swimming (for all water recreation) - Swimsuits for men: swim trunks only (no shorts, cut-off pants, or Speedos). Swimsuits for women: One-piece suits recommended, however, two-piece suits are allowed as long as they are modestly cut. No string, thong, or crochet suits will be allowed. Swimsuits may only be worn during swimming activities.

If you choose to dress inappropriately, you will be asked to change clothes or be required to wear a camp-issued shirt. By planning ahead and packing appropriately, you will save yourself the inconvenience of having to change and you will be contributing to a pleasant camp atmosphere.

Adult Chaperones (Camp Counselors)*

Each district will conduct a mandatory camp staff/adult chaperone camp training covering State of Texas rules, SPJST rules, camp rules, working with children, etc. The training must take place prior to the beginning of the respective district's camp.

The chaperone to camper ratio will follow the American Camping Association (ACA) ratio. Chaperones will follow the outlined camp program as supervisors.

All adult chaperones/SPJST camp staff must complete an online SPJST Camp Staff/Volunteer Application and submit it to the State Fraternal Director no later than February 28. These applications are available through the SPJST website. No adult may assist at SPJST Camp without a completed SPJST Camp Staff/Volunteer Application on file for the current year. All adult chaperones and SPJST camp staff paid for by SPJST will undergo background checks, which the SPJST Home Office will complete.*

All adult chaperones must be SPJST members. The exception is staff hired by the camping facility or DYC who work in a specialized area and do not reside with the campers or serve as chaperones.

- ❑ Children of a youth leader (age five years old) are not encouraged to attend camp, but the child may attend if accompanied by his/her parent, provided that the child's presence does not interfere with the leader's duties. These children's camp expenses will be paid in the same proportion as the other campers.

*Denotes change to Youth Club Handbook from previous year.

Camp Visits

Camping is intended primarily for the young people and unless adults are there as chaperones, there should not be groups of visitors and guests at camp. However, SPJST always welcomes visits by members/parents at district camps. These visits should be brief and not cover a time period of more than one meal (either breakfast, lunch, or dinner). In addition, the guests will be expected to pay for their meals. Payment can be made either by cash or check to the SPJST Home Office. Checks are to be made payable to "SPJST Home Office."

Camp Insurance

All districts will carry insurance coverage under the master policy provided by the Home Office. This coverage will be provided by the Home Office, and the cost will be deducted from the district's camp fund.

Drug-Free Environment

SPJST seeks to provide a drug-free environment at all SPJST camps. As such, SPJST may periodically enlist the services of Texas Rapid Response K9 LLC and/or any other such precautionary measures to ensure a safe and drug-free environment.

SPJST Summer Camp Rules

All campers and chaperones will observe the following camp rules and also the SPJST Rules of Conduct and Grievance Guidelines. The DYCs may add additional rules to accommodate the needs of the camp.

A violation by a camper will be handled by the DYCs according to the seriousness of the matter, and, if necessary, the DYCs will consult with the State Fraternal Director and/or the Supreme Lodge President/Head of the Youth Department.

1. All campers will participate in all scheduled activities.
2. If a camper is late for a scheduled activity, it must be reported to the adult leader in charge.
3. Campers will not be allowed to drive vehicles while at camp.
4. No one will be allowed to leave the camp grounds.
5. Lights out will be strictly observed - quiet!
6. No boys in the girls' quarters and vice versa.
7. No discourteous acts toward anyone.
8. No hazing of fellow campers.
9. No throwing anyone in any body of water.

10. No tree climbing or rock throwing.
11. No abusing camp property or equipment.
12. No stealing.
13. No selling, giving, possessing or using alcohol, tobacco products, illegal drugs, weapons, or fireworks.
14. Proper camp attire and swimming suit must be modest/appropriate and will be enforced at all times. What is "proper" will be determined by the DYC, and if necessary, by consulting with the State Fraternal Director and/or the Supreme Lodge President.
15. Each camper will keep everything orderly around his/her own bunk.
16. Good sportsmanship and conduct will be observed at all times.
17. All camp areas will be cleaned before leaving camp. Campers will be expected to pick up all litter on the grounds and inside the cabins.
18. No visible body piercings other than ears. Clear spacers may be worn in place of jewelry.

2019 SPJST Summer Camps at Camp Kubena in Ledbetter

Teen Camp - Ages 13 to High School Senior
Saturday, June 15 to Wednesday, June 19

Junior Camps - Completed Kindergarten to Age 12 Years Old

District One
Wednesday, July 17 to Sunday, July 21

District Two
Wednesday, July 17 to Sunday, July 21

District Three
Wednesday, June 19 to Sunday, June 23

District Four
Wednesday, June 19 to Sunday, June 23

District Five
Wednesday, June 19 to Sunday, June 23

District Six
Wednesday, July 17 to Sunday, July 21

District Seven
Wednesday, June 19 to Sunday, June 23



Christmas Ornament, Camp Tee-Shirt, Decorated Rock, and Flag Day Contests



Christmas Ornament Contest

What is it?

Each year, SPJST sponsors a Christmas ornament contest at each district's fall meeting/fun day for youth members to showcase their creative ability.

Who can enter?

SPJST members entering kindergarten or age 5 to high school senior. The age group will be determined by the age of the current youth year.

Contest Date

Christmas ornaments will be judged at each district's annual fall meeting/fun day. Check with your youth leader, District Youth Counselor, or the *Veštník* for your district's 2019 fall meeting date, location, and contest registration time.

The Rules

- Each youth member may enter one ornament.
- Youth member must be present at the district meeting and during the award presentation to win.
- All ornaments must be homemade or purchased in a pre-assembled kit. No store-bought finished ornaments allowed.
- May use any material appropriate for a Christmas ornament. Food is not appropriate. Styrofoam balls are acceptable.
- Overall size for ornament must be no larger than six inches, excluding ornament hanger.
- Entry will not display any alcohol, tobacco, or drug-related items.

Judging

The DYC will secure judges for the contest. Ornaments will be judged on:

- Creative Ability.....45 points
- Skill and Design35 points
- Appearance and Neatness.....20 points

Awards

Winners will receive ribbons. One winning ornament in each of the following age categories will be selected:

- Ages Entering Kindergarten or Age 5 to 8 Years
- Ages 9 to 11 Years
- Ages 12 to 14 Years
- Ages 15 Years to High School Senior

The four winning ornaments from each district will be sent to the SPJST Home Office in Temple where they will be displayed on the SPJST Youth Christmas Tree in the Home Office lobby. The four winning ornaments from each district will receive a certificate of recognition. A picture of the SPJST Youth Christmas Tree will be featured on the front page of the *Veštník* with the winners' names.



Camp Tee-Shirt Design Contest

What is it?

Each year, SPJST sponsors a tee-shirt design contest for youth members to create an artistic design for the summer camp tee-shirts.

Who can enter?

Active SPJST members entering kindergarten or age 5 to high school senior. The age group will be determined by the age of the current youth year.

Contest Dates

October 1, 2019 to January 31, 2020.

The Rules

- To enter, the youth must currently be an active youth club member.
- Create a tee-shirt design relating to the 2020 theme: 2020 theme to be announced.
- Submit entry, using a black pen, black marker, or any coloring instrument on an official entry form (available from SPJST youth leaders or the State Fraternal Director).
- Entries must be freehand originals created by the youth member.
- Entries should be simple in design and easy to reproduce on a tee-shirt.

- Entry will not display any alcohol, tobacco, or drug-related items.
- Entries become the property of SPJST and will not be returned.
- Grand prize winner may not enter the contest for one year following winning.
- Entries must be postmarked by January 31, 2020.
- Mail entries to:

SPJST State Fraternal Director Frank Horak
c/o SPJST Home Office
PO Box 100 • Temple, Texas 76503-0100

Judging

Designs will be judged by in-house art specialists. Judging is based on the design’s overall appearance and appeal; creativity and originality; and ability to reproduce on a tee-shirt.



Awards

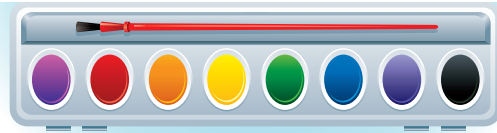
All participants will receive a participation certificate, and youth club members will also receive two merit points in the Merit Point System. The following prizes will be awarded:

Grand Prize Winner

\$100 gift card and youth member’s design on the 2020 SPJST Camp Tee-Shirts (Youth winning grand prize will not receive age category prize.)

Age Category Prizes

- Ages Entering Kindergarten or Age 5 to 8 Years
\$75 Gift Card
- Ages 9 to 11 Years
\$75 Gift Card
- Ages 12 to 14 Years
\$75 Gift Card
- Ages 15 Years to High School Senior
\$75 Gift Card



Decorated Rock Contest

What is it?

The Decorated Rock Contest is sponsored by SPJST to encourage youth members to be creative and express their artistic talents. The contest is held at the district spring meeting. Youth must be present to enter and win.

Please check with your youth leader, District Youth Counselor, or the Veštník for your district’s 2020 spring meeting date, location, and contest registration time.

Who Can Enter?

SPJST members entering kindergarten or age 5 to high school senior. The age group will be determined by the age of the current youth year.

The Rules

- Contestants will decorate a rock that must fit in the palm of a hand for the contest. You may decorate the rock however you like. Use your imagination!

Judging

Rocks will be judged according to the following criteria:

- Creative Ability
- Skill and Design
- Appearance and Neatness

Awards

All SPJST Rock Decorating Contest participants will receive a participation award, and youth club members will receive five merit points in the Merit Point System.

The first place winning rocks from each district will be featured in a display case in the SPJST Home Office lobby through the end of the youth year.

The first place winning rocks from each district will also be judged on the state level.

State Level Age Category Prizes

- Ages Entering Kindergarten or Age 5 to 8 Years
\$25 Gift Card
- Ages 9 to 11 Years
\$25 Gift Card
- Ages 12 to 14 Years
\$25 Gift Card
- Ages 15 Years to High School Senior
\$25 Gift Card

Flag Day Contest*

What is it?

Each year, SPJST sponsors a Flag Day Contest to promote patriotism and creative writing.

Who Can Enter?

All SPJST members who are entering kindergarten or age 5 to high school senior. Youth club membership is not required. The age group will be determined by the age of the current youth year.

2020 Theme

“The American Flag - Freedom, Courage, and Honor”*

The Rules

- Write a Flag Day essay or poem with the theme “The American Flag - Freedom, Courage, and Honor.” Essay length must be between 150 to 500 words.
- Entries must be typed.
- Entries must be original and created by the youth member.
- Entries become the property of SPJST and will not be returned.
- Entries must include a cover sheet with participant’s name, address, phone number, and lodge number.
- Entries must be received by May 31, 2020.

- Send entries to:

SPJST State Fraternal Director Frank Horak
c/o SPJST Home Office
PO Box 100 • Temple, Texas 76503-0100
Email: frankh@spjst.com

Judging

Entries will be judged by a panel of writing specialists. Judging is based on the entry’s creativity, grammar, and neatness.

Awards

All participants will receive a participation certificate. Youth club members will also receive two merit points in the Merit Point System. Winning entries will be published in the *Veštík*.

Grand Prize Winner

\$100 gift card and winning entry read at the SPJST Flag Day Ceremony on June 14 at a location to be announced. (Youth winning grand prize will not receive age category prize.)



Age Category Prizes

- Ages Entering Kindergarten or Age 5 to 8 Years
\$50 Gift Card
- Ages 9 to 11 Years
\$50 Gift Card
- Ages 12 to 14 Years
\$50 Gift Card
- Ages 15 Years to High School Senior
\$50 Gift Card



SPJST Youth Club Motto

I pledge my support
to uphold the high
ideals of the SPJST:
Seeking brotherhood;
Pledging benevolence;
Joining hands;
Supporting humanity;
Trusting in my ability
to make this world
a better place.
This I pledge.



*Denotes change to Youth Club Handbook from previous year.



President's Volunteer Service Award



“Nowhere is our unity more evident than in the actions of our volunteer and charitable organizations that rally to their neighbors’ aid.”

—President Donald J. Trump

About the Award

In 2003, President Bush created the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation to find ways to recognize the valuable contributions volunteers are making in our nation. The council brings together leaders from the worlds of business, entertainment, sports, education, government, nonprofit, and the media.

The President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation created the President’s Volunteer Service Award Program as a way to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service.

Recognizing and honoring volunteers sets a standard for service to others. It encourages a sustained commitment to civic participation and inspires others to make volunteering a central part of their lives. The President’s Volunteer Service Award is a Presidential recognition program for Americans of all ages, who contribute a significant amount of time to volunteer service. The program recognizes individuals, families, and groups that have achieved a certain standard - measured by the number of hours served over a 12-month period.

Guidelines

To earn an award, individuals, families and groups must keep a record of volunteer activities and hours served. This Record of Service may be kept as a diary or calendar or tracked online using the USA Freedom Corps Record of Service.

Individuals must submit their records to the State Fraternal Director who will review and verify their records and order and distribute the award. To be recognized, service activities should meet national or community needs in the areas of youth achievement, parks and open spaces, healthy communities, and public safety and emergency response.

Activities should be unpaid and may not include court-ordered community service. Only one award may be received for the previous year of service.

What Do Recipients Receive?

Award recipients receive:

- An official President’s Volunteer Service Award pin
- A personalized certificate of achievement
- A note of congratulations from the President of the United States
- A letter from the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation

How do I apply for the

President’s Volunteer Service Awards?

The SPJST Youth Program is sponsoring the President’s Volunteer Service Awards for all SPJST youth who are eligible to receive the awards. No youth may receive more than one President’s Volunteer Service Awards during the preceding calendar year. SPJST will recognize youth for volunteer service during January 1 through December 31. Members can track their volunteer hours online. Volunteers can go to <http://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov/> and click on the “Get Involved” tab followed by the volunteers link and provide the requested information. Applicants will receive an email that will provide them with a login and password. Once you are logged in with your new login and password provided to you from the Presidential Service Headquarters, please click “My Profile” and scroll to the bottom of your screen where you will be prompted to add the SPJST Record of Service Key: VQH-45722. You must enter this key in order to register your hours with SPJST. Volunteer hours should be logged into the system by March 31 of each year. If you have any questions or need help with the login, please contact the SPJST Youth Department at 800-727-7578 or email State Fraternal Director Frank Horak at frankh@spjst.com.



VĚSTNÍK - Promote Your Youth Club In SPJST's Newsletter

What is it?

The *Veštník* is SPJST's official newsletter. Both printed and email versions are available. The *Veštník* contains news and information about SPJST lodges and youth clubs across the state. All SPJST members can receive the *Veštník* at no charge. To subscribe, call the Home Office at 800.727.7578 or visit www.spjst.org.

Who can participate?

Youth members are encouraged to practice their journalistic and creative skills by submitting letters and other items to the *Veštník*.

The Rules

- Youth members earn a maximum of one merit point each month for the following *Veštník* submissions:
 - Letters/articles on SPJST youth club activities
 - Book, movie, music, etc. reviews
 - Original poems, creative writing, and artwork
- A youth club reporter can only earn points after he/she has written the required monthly meeting report.*

Submissions must contain:

- Name
- Age
- Lodge Number and Lodge Name; and
- Good grammar and spelling.
- Double space lines (if handwritten).
- All submissions must be written, printed, or typed by the youth member.
- Letter must be informative and answer the five W's — *who, what, when, why, and where*.
- Letters containing the same information or letters on subjects not considered newsworthy will not be published nor earn points. (examples - events that will be over by publication time or letters from the same household on the same subjects.)

Deadline

All submissions, including emails, texts, and faxes, must be in the *Veštník* office no later than Wednesday by 5 p.m. (unless otherwise posted) to be published in the following week's issue. For photos, please include a short description or article describing what the photo is about. Send letters, reviews, creative writings, drawings, and photos to:

Veštník Editor Melanie Zavodny
c/o SPJST Home Office

PO Box 100 • Temple, Texas 76503-0100

Fax: 254-773-8087 • Email: vestnik@spjst.org

Text: 254-534-0807 • Online Submissions: spjst.org

10 Tips for Submitting Your News and Photos to the *Veštník* for Publication

1. The deadline for receiving news and photos for the following week's issue is Wednesday at 5 p.m., unless otherwise posted in the *Veštník*. Submit online at spjst.org; email to vestnik@spjst.org; text to 254.534.0807; or fax to 254.773.8087.
2. In preparing your youth club reports and features, please include complete information. All stories submitted should be written legibly or typed. Also, take care to check the spelling on names - people love to see their names in print - especially when they are spelled correctly. In case there are any questions, it's always a good idea for the correspondent to include his/her name, address, phone number, and email address with the article.
3. Keep in mind, your well-written youth club letters may also have strong reader appeal for your local newspaper - especially if your area is served by a weekly paper/online newsletter dedicated to promoting local news and activities.
4. In composing your stories, please feel free to be creative. Some of the most interesting youth club letters and features incorporate colorful quotes, descriptions, and background information.
5. Regarding photographs in the *Veštník*, clear, digital photographs make the best reproductions in the *Veštník*. Submitted photos should have a resolution of at least 200 dpi.
6. Be creative! People-oriented photos draw readers into your story. For instance, a shot of two dancers out on the floor will attract much more attention than a picture of two people standing in front of a wall. Submit your photographs with short, descriptive captions.
7. Good contrast and an uncluttered background are also important for a good photo. When photographing people, it's especially important to be CLOSE to the subjects. People — typically the focal point of most photos — are more important than the background. Before you take a photograph, check the background and try different angles if possible. If necessary, move your subjects to avoid distractions. Light-colored backgrounds work best.
8. Take special care when shooting photographs of people outdoors. It's a good idea to use your flash - especially on bright days - to fill in the harsh shadows caused by sunlight.
9. The *Veštník* is your newspaper and is made available for you to use as a tool to promote fraternalism in your youth club and throughout SPJST. It can also be an effective aid in recruiting new members. It can help boost the morale of active members. It can be used as a source of ideas for social and fraternal activities and as a source of information about SPJST and its many fraternal insurance and financial products.
10. The *Veštník* is always looking for feature stories about lodges and youth clubs, lodge and youth club members, and special events that will appeal to the readership. If you ever have any suggestions or questions about submitting your news and photos to the *Veštník*, please call the Editor/Director of Communication at 800-727-7578 or 254-773-1575.



SPJST Scholarships and Grants Program

SPJST recognizes and awards its members for academic excellence, exceptional leadership ability, and outstanding service with its scholarship and leadership grant program.

SPJST awards the following scholarships and leadership grants:

General Scholarships	\$1,000
Leadership Grants	\$1,000
District Merit Scholarships	\$1,000
State Merit Scholarships.....	\$1,500
Royalty Scholarships.....	\$1,500

Any youth member who has been the recipient of either the State Merit Scholarship, the District Merit Scholarship, or the Royalty Scholarship is also eligible to apply for a General Scholarship or a Leadership Grant. A youth may receive a maximum of two SPJST scholarships/grants, excluding the Royalty Scholarship.

SPJST General Scholarships and SPJST Leadership Grants

General scholarships were established in 1982 for all SPJST members. General scholarships are funded by the Supreme Lodge and voluntary contributions by SPJST members. Accordingly, the more funds available, the more scholarships awarded.

Leadership grants were established in 1996 for active youth club members. Leadership grants are funded solely through allocations by the Supreme Lodge.

Eligibility

All scholarship and grant applicants must:

- Have an active SPJST life insurance certificate in force for one year as of February 1;
- Hold an active SPJST life insurance certificate for the duration of the scholarship or grant; and
- Be a high school senior.

General scholarship recipients may only receive one general scholarship. Active youth club members are highly encouraged to apply for both the general

scholarship and the leadership grant; however, they are only eligible to receive one. (Applications must be postmarked no later than February 1.)

Selection

Selections are based on the following criteria:

High School Seniors

- Required application
- Current official high school transcript with a grade point average on a 4.00 scale
- Official verification of SAT/ACT test scores
- Personal statement
- References and recommendations
- Photo/Biography

College Undergraduates

- Required application
- Current official college transcripts with a grade point average on a 4.00 scale
- Personal statement
- References and recommendations
- Photo/Biography

Technical Students

- Required application
- Current official transcript with a grade point average on a 4.00 scale
- Personal statement
- References and recommendations
- Photo/Biography

Leadership Grant Applicants

- In addition to the previous list of criteria, the SPJST Leadership Grant is also based on SPJST Youth Program involvement from the eighth to 12th grades, including activities listed below:
 - Attending district camp
 - Participating in District Youth Achievement Day
 - Participating in or attending State YAD
 - Attending Leader-In-Training (LIT) workshop
 - Serving as local youth club officer and/or committee member
 - Attending a majority of youth club meetings
 - Attending district spring meetings
 - Attending district fall meetings/fun days
 - Attending district youth socials/trips

The Leadership Grant applications will be judged as follows:

References/Recommendations

Personal Statements	30 points
SPJST Youth Program	
Involvement	30 points
Grade Point Average	20 points
SAT/ACT Scores	20 points

General Scholarship and Leadership Grant Rules

All required information listed below must be returned to the SPJST Fraternal Department postmarked no later than February 1. Please note that this information is subject to change. *Please refer to the Office of the President for the most complete and update information regarding the SPJST Scholarship application process.*

1. Application

Must be fully completed and signed. Applications are available from the SPJST Fraternal Department at the SPJST Home Office.

2. Transcript

Request school/college to send current, official transcript to SPJST Fraternal Department. The transcript must have a grade point average on a 4.00 scale.

3. SAT/ACT Scores

All high school seniors must submit an official verification of SAT/ACT scores. These scores should be submitted with a current, official transcript. Only those students applying for SPJST Technical Scholarships do not need to submit SAT/ACT scores.

4. Personal Statement

The applicant must submit a personal statement that includes why the applicant wishes to go to college, which college he/she plans to attend, and his/her planned major. The applicant must also explain, in 300 words or less, how the scholarship/grant will help him/her. Statements must be typed or neatly written on 8 1/2-inch by 11-inch sheets of paper.

5. References and Recommendations

Application must include three written letters of recommendations from three distinct disciplines (i.e. clergy, high school officials, employers, professionals, etc.) References should include a judgement of applicant's potential.

6. Photo/Biography

The applicant must submit one wallet-sized portrait of himself/herself. Attach the photo (with tape on back) to an 8 1/2-inch by 11-inch sheet of paper. Add the following to the sheet:

- Applicant's full name
- Street address, city, state, zip
- Parents' full names
- Applicant's high school attended
- College applicant plans to attend
- Applicant's planned major
- Applicant's SPJST lodge number and location

Deadline

The required application information must be fully completed and postmarked no later than February 1. Please note that due to scholarship/grant deadlines, any application postmarked after February 1 cannot be processed.

Notification

- Winners of SPJST General Scholarships and Leadership Grants are notified in April.
- Winning students must apply to the college of their choice and request official verification of enrollment to be sent from that college to the SPJST Fraternal Department as soon as possible after registering.
- SPJST scholarship checks are not issued without official proof of enrollment and attendance.

Important Scholarship and Leadership Grant Dates

Beginning in September

Scholarship/Grant Applications mailed to applicants upon request.

All paperwork due at the Home Office by February 1
Deadline for all requested paperwork.

April/May

Scholarship/Leadership Grant winners notified.

Student Completes College Enrollment

Student enters school and requests scholarship/grant to be sent to college. Freshman winners must use the scholarship/grant within two years of high school graduation. Undergraduate winners must use the scholarship within two years from the date the scholarship is awarded.

Merit and Royalty Scholarships and State Merit Scholarship

State Merit Scholarship

What is it?

The State Merit Scholarship in the amount of \$1,500 is presented annually at State Youth Achievement Day to a teen youth club member.

The Rules

- ❑ Entries must include a cover sheet with participant's name, address, phone number, and lodge number.
- ❑ The teen from each district with the total most points over the previous three youth years is eligible to compete for the State Merit Scholarship. Each district's qualified teen will be notified by the State Fraternal Director to submit a 850- to 1,000-word essay on the current youth year's theme.
- ❑ In case of a tie for first place, two scholarships will be awarded.
- ❑ The grant or scholarship recipient must request and use the grant or scholarship within two years of his/her high school graduation.
- ❑ Any youth who has been the recipient of either the State Merit Scholarship, the District Merit Scholarship, or the Royalty Scholarship may apply for an SPJST General Scholarship and an SPJST Leadership Grant. A youth may receive a maximum of two scholarships/grants within SPJST, excluding the State Merit Scholarship.

Judging

A panel of writing specialists will judge the essays using the following criteria:

Content	50 percent
Mechanics	35 percent
Neatness	15 percent

Mechanics consists of grammar, spelling, and sentence structure.

District Merit Scholarships

What Is It?

District Merit Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 are presented annually at State Youth Achievement Day to teens in each district.

The Rules

- ❑ Entries must include a cover sheet with participant's name, address, phone number, and lodge number.
- ❑ The teen youth club member from each lodge in each district with the total most points over the previous three youth years is eligible to compete for the District Merit Scholarship. Each lodge's qualified teen will be notified by the State Fraternal Director to submit a 850- to 1,000-word essay on the current youth year's theme.
- ❑ In case of a tie for first place, two scholarships/grants will be awarded.
- ❑ If a youth wins the District Merit Scholarship and also competes for the State Merit Scholarship and wins, he/she must then relinquish his/her District Merit Scholarship to the second place essay entry of his/her district. A youth may not win both the State Merit Scholarship and District Merit Scholarship.
- ❑ A youth may not win more than one District Merit Scholarship.
- ❑ Scholarship/grant recipients must request and use the scholarships within two years of their high school graduations.
- ❑ Any youth who has been the recipient of either the State Merit Scholarship, the District Merit Scholarship, or the Royalty Scholarship may apply for an SPJST General Scholarship and an SPJST Leadership Grant. A youth may receive a maximum of two scholarships/grants within SPJST, excluding the State Merit Scholarship.

Judging

A panel of writing specialists will judge the essays using the following criteria:

Content	50 percent
Mechanics	35 percent
Neatness	15 percent

Mechanics consists of grammar, spelling, and sentence structure.

Royalty Scholarships

What Is It?

SPJST Royalty Scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 are presented to the SPJST State King and SPJST State Queen on the successful completion of their reigns.

The Rules

The State King and State Queen are required to make six public appearances together with arrangements made by the State Fraternal Director. If the State King or State Queen fail to make all six appearances, their scholarships will be forfeited. See complete Royalty rules on pages 30 and 31.



SPJST Rules of Conduct for Youth Activities

SPJST maintains a valued reputation for integrity, fairness, and for providing the best protection for our members and their families. SPJST Rules of Conduct are provided to help you make the right choices. While there may not always be specific laws to direct us, integrity and personal responsibility should guide our actions. Where there are laws, we have to obey them, and we should be aware that violations of the law, By-Laws, or Rules of Conduct or guidelines set forth in the *SPJST Youth Club Handbook* can lead to disciplinary action, dismissal, and prosecution.

No matter how positive our image may be, it can be damaged by the actions of a few. For that reason, our behavior must be appropriate at all times. Our members have come to expect the highest standards of care and ethical behavior from anyone representing SPJST. We must continue to live up to those expectations. The Rules of Conduct reflect our ongoing commitment to ethical conduct, integrity, and fairness.

All youth club members, leaders, chaperones, staff personnel, or volunteers representing or acting on behalf of SPJST have a responsibility and obligation to thoroughly know and understand the SPJST Rules of Conduct and SPJST Grievance Guidelines at Youth Activities. That is why you are requested to review these and acknowledge your understanding in writing. Your signed acknowledgment will become a permanent part of our files. If you have any questions regarding this acknowledgment, please contact the Supreme Lodge President or State Fraternal Director.

Youth Rules of Conduct

SPJST has jurisdiction over youth club members during official SPJST state, district, and local lodge activities. This jurisdiction includes any SPJST youth activity regardless of time or location. Youth club members who violate these Rules of Conduct will be subject to disciplinary action.

Youth club members at SPJST youth activities are prohibited from:

- Leaving SPJST activities without proper authorization from the party in charge.
- Hazing.
- Abusing property or equipment.

- Selling, giving, possessing, or using alcohol, tobacco products, illegal drugs, weapons, or fireworks.
- Any malicious or deliberate intent to do bodily harm.
- Stealing.
- Engaging in inappropriate physical or sexual behavior disruptive or offensive to other members of the SPJST environment.
- Engaging in conduct constituting a felony as defined by law.
- Insubordination, such as disobeying a directive from SPJST representatives, being disrespectful or directing profanity, vulgar language, or obscene gestures toward members, leaders, SPJST staff, or any SPJST representative.
- Disobeying the rules as set forth in the current SPJST Youth Club Handbook.
- Driving a car at camp. (Keys will be turned in to DYC upon arrival.)
- Negligence of assigned duties. (LIT assignments)

Consequences for Violations

Punishment will be according to severity of the violation. The DYC or youth leader in charge will determine the proper punishment. Any decisions by the State Fraternal Director, DYC, or youth leader at the time of the violation will be final. The State Fraternal Director, DYC, or youth leader will discuss any serious violations with the youth's parent or guardian. Any formal opposition must be made as outlined in the SPJST Grievance Guidelines at Youth Activities on page 47.

Search and Seizure

SPJST reserves the right to inspect any youth's belongings, suitcase, bags, bedding, etc. Such inspection may be done with or without notice and with or without cause. If youth refuses to submit to inspection when requested, then it shall be deemed an act of gross insubordination and shall be grounds to send youth home.

Disclaimer

Should there be any discrepancy or conflict in any rules, or should a contingency arise not covered by these rules, the SPJST Supreme Lodge President and/or State Fraternal Director reserve the right to interpret and proceed in the way they feel is fairest and best for all concerned.

Adult Rules of Conduct

These guidelines reaffirm the importance the SPJST Society places on high standards and ethical behavior. Adherence to these standards by all SPJST members is the only sure way SPJST can merit the support and confidence SPJST members have come to expect. Each SPJST representative is responsible for his or her actions.

For each, integrity is a personal responsibility. Violations, or suspected violations, of any of the guidelines outlined here, or in our SPJST's rules and practices, should be promptly directed to the State Fraternal Director or Supreme Lodge President. Violations can result in disciplinary action, including dismissal and criminal prosecution.

No one will be permitted to justify an illegal act by claiming it was approved by someone of authority. No one, regardless of position, is ever authorized to instruct or condone an illegal or unethical act. Any reprisal against any member because the member in good faith reported a violation is strictly forbidden.

This form does not include the rules and regulations that apply to every situation. Its contents have been outlined within the framework of SPJST's policies, practices, instructions, and requirements by law. Moreover, the absence of a specific SPJST practice or instruction covering a particular situation does not relieve a member from exercising the highest ethical standards applicable to the circumstances. If you have any questions as to what the proper course of conduct or action should be, consult the State Fraternal Director or Supreme Lodge President.

By working together, we will continue to provide the best possible care to those who are entrusted to our care.



SPJST members, staff personnel, leaders, or any adult working in an official capacity (example: chaperone, driver, etc.) are prohibited from:

- Negligence of assigned duties.
- Engaging in any conduct constituting a felony as defined by law.
- Stealing.
- Selling, giving, possessing, or using alcohol or illegal drugs while at SPJST youth activities.
- Possessing a handgun at camp.
- Engaging in inappropriate physical or sexual behavior, disruptive or offensive to other SPJST members or the SPJST environment.
- Any malicious or deliberate act to do bodily harm.

Consequences for Violations

- Will be relieved of duty or assignment by State Fraternal Director, DYC, or youth leader in charge.
- Suspension from working with youth from one month to three years, depending on severity of the violation.

Search and Seizure

SPJST reserves the right to inspect any youth's belongings, suitcase, bags, bedding, etc. Such inspection may be done with or without notice and with or without cause. If youth refuses to submit to inspection when requested, then it shall be deemed an act of gross insubordination and shall be grounds to send youth home.

Disclaimer

Should there be any discrepancy or conflict in any rules or should a contingency arise not covered by these rules, the SPJST Supreme Lodge President and/or State Fraternal Director reserve the right to interpret and proceed in the way they feel is fairest and best for all concerned.



SPJST Grievance Guidelines at Youth Activities

1. Hearing Procedure for when a written complaint has been filed concerning adults and/or youth club members during SPJST state, district, or local lodge youth activities is as follows:

A. The Supreme Lodge Officers will appoint a three-member Grievance Committee, each from a different district other than the accused member's district.

B. Should a complaint be made against any member for violating any part of the rules, regulations, by-laws, or Rules of Conduct for Youth Activities, provisions contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised concerning formal procedures for fair disciplinary process must be followed, except if covered in Article 67 of the SPJST By-Laws, the SPJST By-Laws will govern.

C. All proceedings under these rules shall be private. The name of the member under investigation shall not be disclosed in any communication or to any person other than to persons whose testimony is necessary in connection with the proceeding, or to members of the Grievance Committee. However, at the request of the accused member, a disciplinary hearing and the entire record and proceedings shall be made public. All communications concerning disciplinary proceedings are to be marked "Confidential," and all disciplinary files are to be maintained in strict confidence.

D. In the event of a finding of guilt of the charges filed and a suspension or expulsion from a position, the member may appeal, in writing, to the Supreme Lodge President for a hearing before the Supreme Lodge. Such an appeal must be made within 15 days after receiving the Grievance Committee's notice of action. Likewise, the aggrieved member, if not satisfied with the Grievance Committee's findings, may appeal to the Supreme Lodge in the same manner as the accused member. Upon request by the Supreme Lodge President, the Grievance Committee will furnish a certified transcript of the proceedings to the Supreme Lodge President.

E. The Supreme Lodge shall hear all evidence, and such member can be suspended with a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting.

F. The Supreme Lodge shall investigate thoroughly all facts pertinent to the issues of suspension or expulsion of a member from the position and sustain or reject

such suspension or expulsion. All proceedings under these rules shall be private, and the name of the member under investigation shall not be disclosed in any communication or to any person other than to persons whose testimony is necessary in connection with the proceedings, or to members of the Grievance Committee. However, at the request of the accused member, a disciplinary hearing and the entire record and proceedings shall be made public. All communications concerning disciplinary proceedings are to be marked "Confidential," and all disciplinary files are to be maintained in strict confidence. A representative of the Supreme Lodge shall make a full report of the findings and action taken by the Supreme Lodge and inform the member under investigation.

G. In the event that any accusation is found to be unfounded or based on personal spite or malice, the member making the accusation shall be reprimanded by the Supreme Lodge. If such member continues to make such disturbances, then his membership may be suspended.

H. If a member is suspended for any other reason except nonpayment of premiums, dues, and assessment, or misrepresentation or fraud at the time of admission into SPJST, he may keep his insurance in force by paying his premiums as due. Except that he may retain his insurance in force, such a suspended member has no social connection with SPJST or his former local lodge.

Crisis Management Plan

Types of Crises SPJST May Be Subject to:

- Fire
- Tornado
- Flooding
- Bomb threat
- Burglary or robbery
- Medical emergency (asthma attack, shooting, poisoning, drowning, bodily injury)
- Adverse weather conditions
- Sexual abuse

Briefing

- Locate fire extinguishers.
- Evacuation plan posted in the event of fire, flooding, bomb threat, etc.
- Phone numbers to be posted next to phone:
911
Poison Control: 800-764-7661
- Adverse weather conditions. Have a central location designated which will provide protection.

- Designated person:
 - Take charge of the specific crisis
 - Designate others to assist
 - Administer medical assistance
 - Call appropriate emergency personnel

Review Basic Education for:

- Evacuation
- Fire safety
- Drowning
- Poisoning
- Burglary or robbery
- First aid
- Adverse weather conditions

Suggested Designated Persons

At local functions, it is suggested that the youth leader or his/her designee assess and manage the actual crisis; identify and communicate necessary information in a timely manner to all appropriate groups on a need-to-know basis; and plan to resume the function as usual, once the specific crisis is under control or ended.

At district functions, it is suggested the District Youth Counselor or his/her designee assess and manage the actual crisis; identify and communicate necessary information in a timely manner to all appropriate groups on a need-to-know basis; and plan to resume the function as usual, once the specific crisis is under control or ended.

At state functions, it is suggested the State Fraternal Director or his/her designee assess and manage the actual crisis; identify and communicate necessary information in a timely manner to all appropriate groups on a need-to-know basis; and plan to resume the function as usual, once the specific crisis is under control or ended.

Sexual Abuse and Harassment Policy

It is the policy of SPJST that there shall be no sexual abuse or harassment of anyone involved in any of its functions.

Sexual abuse occurs when an employee, volunteer, or independent contractor touches another for the purpose of causing the sexual arousal or gratification of either the participant or the employee, volunteer, or independent contractor. Sexual abuse also occurs when a participant touches an employee, volunteer, or independent contractor for the sexual arousal or sexual gratification of either the participant or the employee, volunteer, or independent contractor, if the touching occurs at the request or with the consent of the employ-

ee, volunteer, or independent contractor. Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

Neither consent of the participant to the sexual contact, mistake as to the participant's age, nor the fact that the sexual contact did not take place at any function are defenses to a complaint of sexual abuse or harassment.

Upon proof of violation of this policy, the violator will be permanently banned or suspended from any functions of SPJST. Every complaint of sexual abuse or sexual harassment shall be taken seriously and investigated thoroughly using the following steps (Note: the pronoun she may also be interpreted as he):

Step One

The complainant will be interviewed.

- What does she say happened?
- Who does she name as the abuser or harasser?
- Where and when did the incident take place?
- How did she react?
- Were there any witnesses?
- Was it an isolated incident or part of a series?
- Has she spoken to anyone else about the incident?

Step Two

The accused abuser or harasser will be interviewed. The interviewer will stay objective and assume nothing. Every statement will be put in writing.

Step Three

All witnesses will be interviewed.

Step Four

All evidence will be weighed. The credibility of the complainant and the alleged abuser or harasser will be considered.

Are there any previous complaints against the accused abuser or harasser?

Step Five

Take action. Once all the facts are present, the interviewer will ask herself if any sexual abuse or harassment did occur. If she decides the accusation is without merit, she will write a detailed report explaining why, and have the evidence to back it up.

Step Six

If sexual abuse or harassment is suspected to have occurred, follow the procedure as set out in the "Grievance Guidelines at Youth Activities" on page 47.

(Please see 2006 addendum on page 49.)

Addendum to Sexual Abuse and Harassment Policy (2006)

In the event an instance of alleged child abuse occurs or is reported to have occurred at youth camp or at any other SPJST function, the following SPJST personnel should be contacted in the order specified in the diagram below and verbally described below.

The complainant child's chaperone and/or District Youth Counselor should interview the complainant and make a written report of the incident as set forth above. After the interview of the complainant is taken, the complainant's chaperone and/or District Youth Counselor shall deliver his or their findings to the State Fraternal Director.

If the State Fraternal Director determines that the allegations of child abuse against the complainant have merit by assessing all of the available information, he shall immediately report the incident and provide copies of all documentation to the District Director, SPJST President, and SPJST Officers according to their relative availability.

The District Director in conjunction with those SPJST Officers apprised of the alleged incident shall ascertain the veracity of the allegations and make the determination as to whether it is appropriate to contact Child Protective

Services and/or the applicable law enforcement agency as to their findings. SPJST's Legal Advisor shall be the spokesperson to Child Protective Services and/or the applicable law enforcement agency if he/she is available on short notice.

In the event SPJST's Legal Advisor is unavailable on short notice to report the alleged incident to the appropriate authorities, the District Director and SPJST Officers having knowledge of the alleged incident may agree among themselves as to the person who shall act as spokesperson for SPJST.

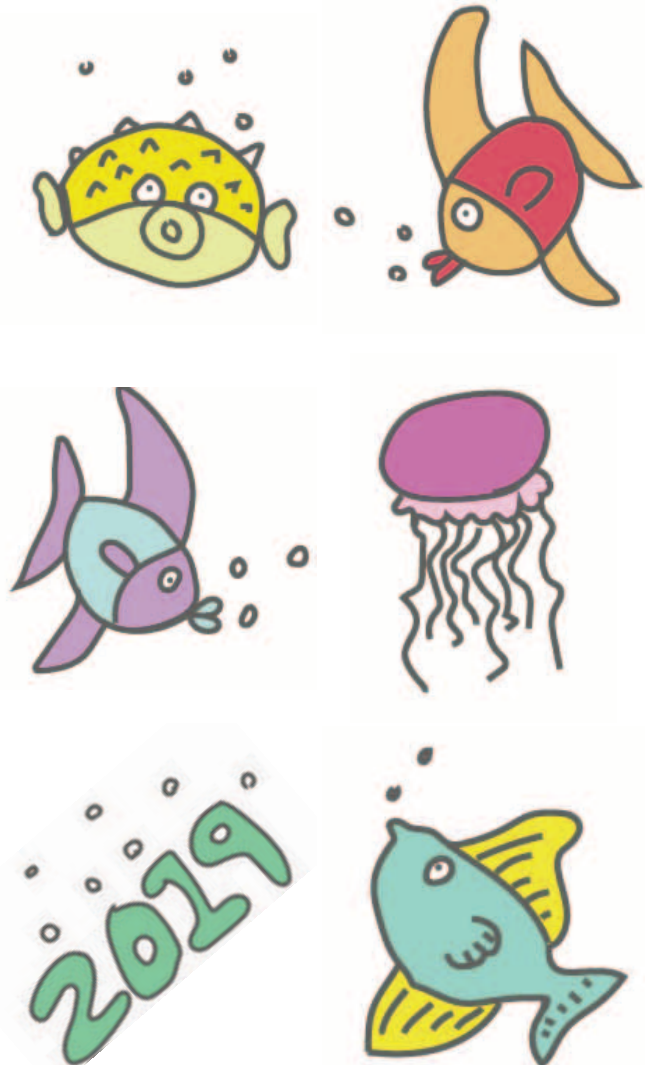
It should be understood that the above framework for investigating and reporting allegations of child abuse may not fit each and every situation. Accordingly, the circumstances surrounding a particular incident may warrant an alternative chain of reporting.

However, unless the circumstances are such that it is undeniable that an incident of child abuse has occurred and the child is in need of immediate attention, the child's chaperone, District Youth Counselor, or State Fraternal Director should not directly contact Child Protective Services and/or the appropriate law enforcement agency without first consulting with a member of the Supreme Lodge.

SPJST's Abuse Reporting Policy*

Anyone having cause to believe that a child's physical or mental health or welfare has been or may be adversely affected by abuse or neglect MUST report the case to a state or local law enforcement agency or the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS) 1-800-252-5400.

- You have 48 hours to make the report after the outcry.
- You should immediately report it to your District Youth Counselor, Camp Director, or State Fraternal Director. They can help guide you through the process. The DYC, Camp Director, or State Fraternal Director will report to the President and the Director of Communication.
- Reporting it to your District Youth Counselor, Camp Director, or State Fraternal Director does not satisfy your legal obligation to report.
- The situation should not be discussed with anyone that is not in a need-to-know position. This is for the protection of both the accuser and the accused (in the case of a false accusation)
- Timing is key, and while you may have up to 48 hours to contact the authorities, take into account when the camper is scheduled to be returning to the abusive environment.



*Denotes change to Youth Club Handbook from previous year.



SPJST Privacy Policy

Protecting the privacy of information about you is a responsibility we take very seriously. We understand your information is personal, and it is important to you that we keep it confidential. The policies and procedures we established to protect the confidential nature of your information are rigorous and thorough.

This notice describes the privacy policy of SPJST. And, it explains the types of information about you that we collect and disclose, with whom that information may be shared, and how we protect the confidentiality of your information.

Be assured that in keeping with our heritage, we are committed to being respectful of your privacy wishes. As long as our policies and procedures meet your expectations, there is nothing you need to do.

Security of Information

We have strict standards of security to safeguard the confidentiality of your information. The technology we use to protect your information is reviewed frequently, and we improve the process as needed.

Information about you is available to authorized employees, field staff, youth leaders, fraternal leaders and local lodges. Their access to your information is limited to only the information they need to provide products, services and benefits to you. We train our employees, field staff, and youth and fraternal leaders to respect and guard the confidentiality of your information. Those who are granted access to your information are held accountable to follow established standards, policies, and laws.

Information Collected

The reason we collect information is to create and foster relationships and so that we can provide and service your insurance needs, fraternal activities, youth activities, and the official publication of information for the Society called *Veštník*. Having accurate information about you permits us to provide better member service, increase the efficiency of our operations and comply with legal and regulatory requirements.

The information we collect about you varies according to the products, services, or benefits you request and may include:

- Information we receive from you on applications or other forms, such as name, address, social security number, birth date, assets, and income.
- Information we receive from consumer reporting agencies, such as credit history.
- Information obtained from our local lodges and conventions.
- Information about your transaction and experience with us, such as products or services purchased, your certificate values, account balances, and payment history.
- Information from other outside sources that relates to their relationship with you or that verifies representations made by you, such as your employment history, other insurance coverage, claims history, and medical records.
- Other general information, such as demographic information.

Information-Sharing Practices Within SPJST

We may share the information we have about you within SPJST and with your local lodge. However, we do not share personally identifiable medical information for any reason except to determine your insurability, to administer your claim, or to which you consent.

Sharing your information enables us to:

- Provide you with better customer service and account maintenance.
- Help you make decisions about your products, services, and benefits by considering your entire relationship with us.
- Inform you of products, services, and benefits that may be of interest to you.

Sharing Information Outside SPJST

We may make disclosures to other organizations as permitted or required by law. For example, we are permitted to share information about you to help us underwrite insurance, process transactions, and administer claims that you request or authorize. We also are permitted to share your information with organizations that perform services for us or on our behalf such as reinsurance, printing, and mailing. In addition, we are required to disclose information about you in certain instances, such as to detect fraud or to comply with an inquiry by a government agency or regulator.

We may share your identifying information (such as name, address, phone number, age, and gender) and your fraternal relationship information (such as local lodge number) with the independent group or groups that select the Fraternalist of the Year, scholarship winners, and similar purposes.

Accuracy of Your Information

Our goal is to keep your information accurate and up-to-date. You may request access to and correction of your information by writing us at our address at the end of this notice.

Our Treatment of Information About Former Members

If you no longer have products or services with us, we will not disclose your information to other organizations, other than as permitted or required by law. We may continue to share information about you with SPJST field personnel, youth and fraternal leaders, and local lodges.

Website

Visitors to our website remain anonymous. We do not collect identifying information about visitors to our site other than we may collect information used for statistical purposes to determine the level of interest in our website.

Questions

Please feel free to call or write about the SPJST Privacy Policy at the phone numbers or address shown below.

SPJST Home Office
PO Box 100 • Temple, Texas 76503
254-773-1575 • 800-727-7578
www.spjst.org • info@spjst.org



The Flag: How to Display It and How to Respect It

The Living Symbol of Our Great Republic

On Flag Day, June 14, 1923, representatives of over 68 organizations met in Washington for a conference, called by and conducted under the auspices of the National Americanism Commission of The American Legion, to draft an authentic code of flag etiquette. The code drafted by that conference was printed by the American Legion and given nation-wide distribution. Millions of copies have been placed in the hands of interested citizens since 1923-24.



Information in this section provided through the courtesy of The American Legion.

The 77th Congress of the United States (Second Session) passed Public Law 623, which is a codification of the Flag Code. This law was later amended, and the Flag Code has now been changed to comply with the law. Since the original Flag Conferences, in 1923-24, the code has been adopted for use by 45 other organizations. American Legion Posts should bring the rules and diagrams contained in this revised edition of the code to the attention of schools and citizens generally.

History Of The Flag

The United States Flag is the third oldest of the National Standards of the world; older than the Union Jack of Britain or the Tricolor of France.

The flag was first authorized by Congress on June 14, 1777. This date is now observed as Flag Day throughout America.

The flag was first flown from Fort Stanwix, on the site of the present city of Rome, New York, on August 3, 1777. It was first under fire three days later in the Battle of Oriskany on August 6, 1777.

It was first decreed that there should be a star and a stripe for each state, making 13 of both; for the states at that time had just been erected from the original 13 colonies.

The colors of the Flag may be thus explained: The red is for valor, zeal, and fervency; the white for hope, purity, cleanliness of life, and rectitude of conduct; the

blue, the color of heaven, for reverence to God, loyalty, sincerity, justice, and truth.

The star (an ancient symbol of India, Persia and Egypt) symbolizes dominion and sovereignty, as well as lofty aspirations. The constellation of the stars within the union, one star for each state, is emblematic of our Federal Constitution, which reserves to the States their individual sovereignty except as to rights delegated by them to the Federal Government.

The symbolism of the Flag was thus interpreted by Washington: "We take the stars from Heaven, the red from our mother country, separating it by white stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her, and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing Liberty."

In 1791, Vermont, and in 1792, Kentucky were admitted to the Union and the number of stars and stripes was raised to 15 in correspondence. As other states came into the Union, it become evident there would be too many stripes. So in 1818, Congress enacted that the number of stripes be reduced and restricted henceforth to 13, representing the 13 original states; while a star should be added for each succeeding state. That law is the law of today.

The name "Old Glory" was given to our National Flag on August 10, 1831, by Captain William Driver of the brig Charles Doggett.

The flag was first carried in battle at the Brandywine on September 11, 1777. It first flew over foreign territory on January 28, 1778, at Nassau, Bahama Islands; Fort Nassau having been captured by the Americans in the course of the war for independence. The first foreign salute to the flag was rendered by the French admiral LaMotte Piquet, off Quiberon Bay, on February 13, 1778.

The United States Flag is unique in the deep and noble significance of its message to the entire world, a message of national independence, of individual liberty, of idealism, of patriotism.

It symbolizes national independence and popular sovereignty. It is not the Flag of a reigning family or royal house, but of 305 million free people welded into a Nation, one and inseparable, united not only by community of interest, but by vital unity of sentiment and purpose; a Nation distinguished for the clear individual conception of its citizens alike of their duties and their privileges, their obligations and their rights.

It incarnates for all mankind, the spirit of Liberty and the glorious ideal of human Freedom; not the freedom of unrestraint or the liberty of license, but a unique ideal of equal opportunity for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, safeguarded by the stern and lofty principles of duty, of righteousness and justice, and attainable by obedience to self-imposed laws.

Floating from the lofty pinnacle of American idealism, it is a beacon of enduring hope, like the famous Bartholdi Statute of Liberty Enlightening the World to the oppressed of all lands. It floats over a wondrous assemblage of people from every racial stock of the earth whose united hearts constitute an indivisible and invincible force for the defense and succor of the down-trodden.

It embodies the essence of patriotism. Its spirit is the spirit of the American nation. Its history is the history of the American people. Emblazoned upon its folds in letters of living light are the names and fame of our heroic dead, the Fathers of the Republic who devoted upon its altars their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. Twice told tales of National honor and glory cluster thickly about it. Ever victorious, it has emerged triumphant from eight great National conflicts. It flew at Saratoga, at Yorktown, at Palo Alto, at Gettysburg, at Manila Bay, at Chateau-Thierry, at Iwo Jima. It bears witness to the immense expansion of our national boundaries, the development of our natural resources, and the splendid structure of our civilization. It prophesies the triumph of popular government, of civic and religious liberty, and the national righteousness throughout the world.

The flag first rose over 13 states along the Atlantic seaboard, with a population of some three million people. Today, it flies over 50 states, extending across the continent, and over great islands of the two oceans: and 305 million owe it allegiance. It has been brought to this proud position by love and sacrifice. Citizens have advanced it, and heroes have died for it. It is the sign made visible of the strong spirit that has brought liberty and prosperity to the people of America. It is the flag of all of us alike. Let us accord it honor and loyalty.

The American's Creed

Wm. Tyler Page

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies.

Respect The Flag

When you see the Stars and Stripes displayed, son, stand up and take off your hat. Somebody may titter. It is in the blood of some to deride all expression of noble sentiment. You may blaspheme in the street and stagger drunken in public places, and the bystanders will not pay much attention to you; but if you should get down on your knees and pray to Almighty God, or if you should stand bareheaded while a company of old soldiers marches by the flags to the breeze, some people will think you are showing off.

But don't you mind! When Old Glory comes along, salute, and let them think what they please! When you hear the band play "The Star-Spangled Banner" while you are in a restaurant or hotel dining room, get up—even if you rise alone; stand there and don't be ashamed of it, either!

For of all the signs and symbols since the world began, there is none other so full of meaning as the flag of this country. That piece of red, white, and blue bunting means 5,000 years of struggle upward. It is the full-grown flower of ages of fighting for liberty. It is the century plant of human hope in bloom.

Your flag stands for humanity, for an equal opportunity to all the sons of men. Of course, we haven't arrived yet at the goal; there are many injustices yet among us, many senseless and cruel customs of the past still clinging to us, but the only hope of righting the wrongs of men lies in the feeling produced in our bosoms by the sight of that flag.

Other flags mean a glorious past, this flag a glorious future. It is not so much the flag of our fathers as it is the flag of our children, and of all children's children yet unborn. It is the flag of tomorrow. It is the signal of the "Good Time Coming." It is not the flag of your king - it is the flag of yourself and of all your neighbors.

Don't be ashamed when your throat chokes and the tears come, as you see it flying from the masts of our ships on all the seas or floating from every flagstaff of the Republic. You will never have a worthier emotion. Reverence it as you would reverence the signature of the Deity.

Listen, son! The band is playing the national anthem - "The Star-Spangled Banner!" They have let loose Old Glory yonder. Stand up - and others will stand with you.

This tribute to the flag is offered to the country in appeal to all men and women of all races, colors, and tongues, that they may come to understand that our flag is the symbol of liberty and learn to love it.

*Alvin M. Owsley,
Past National Commander, The American Legion*

Star-Spangled Banner

*O Say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's
last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars,
through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watch'd,
were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare,
the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night
that our flag was still there.
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

*On the shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread
silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's
first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream;
'Tis the star-spangled banner - O long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!*

*And where is that band, who so valiantly swore,
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion,
A home and a country should leave us no more?
Their blood has wash'd out their foul
footsteps' pollution;
No refuge could save the hireling or slave
From the terror of flight or the gloom
of the grave,
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.*

*O, thus be in ever when freemen shall stand
Between their lov'd homes and the war's
desolation!
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the
heav'n-rescued land
Praise the power that hath made and preserved
us a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause
it is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."
And the star-spangled banner in triumph
shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.*

"I would like to go a step further and insist upon Americans being able to sing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

"I have noted audiences singing - I should say trying to sing - the American national air, but outside of about 2 percent they are only mumbling or pretending to sing. I would like to have the spirit of America show itself in song. I hope you will insist upon some suitable provision to that end in your code."

*— President Harding to the
National Flag Conference
called by the American Legion.*



How to Display the Flag

ON SPEAKER'S PLATFORM



The U.S. flag should be **ABOVE** and **BEHIND** the speaker.

The U.S. flag should be of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the speaker's right as he faces the audience.



FLAT ON THE WALL



Horizontal



Vertical

The Union is always on **TOP** and on the observer's **LEFT**.

**IN PROCESSION
WITH OTHER FLAGS . . .**



**The U.S. flag is
on the marcher's RIGHT
(observer's LEFT).**



**Or in a line with other flags,
the U.S. flag may be in
FRONT and CENTER
of that line.**

**IF GROUPED
WITH OTHER FLAGS . . .**



**The U.S. flag should be
in the CENTER or at the
HIGHEST POINT.**



**The U.S. flag goes to its own
RIGHT and is hoisted BEFORE
other flags. Flags of different
nations are flown at the SAME
HEIGHT.**

OVER A STREET



The flag is suspended vertically with the Union toward:

NORTH on East-West streets
or **EAST** on North-South streets



ON THE SAME STAFF

The U.S. flag is always at peak above any state, city, or society flag. When flown from adjacent staffs, the U.S. flag should be hoisted first.

SPJST Mascot Orel the Eagle



Hello! My name is Orel. I fly all over the state of Texas telling everyone about all of the great SPJST programs and events.

I am an eagle and I symbolize the ideals of SPJST: strong, stable, clear vision, soaring spirit, dedicated, focused, determined and proud to be an American and a Texan.

Did you know that Orel means "eagle" in Czech?

SPJST has many great programs for all ages, especially families. SPJST is so much fun!

I look forward to meeting you. Hope to see you at an SPJST event real soon.

Orel



From the Archives: Past Leaders and Youth Award Winners

Heads of the Youth Department

1956 to 1968
Vice President Joe B. Hejny

1968 to 1984
President Nick A. Morris

1984 to 2004
President Howard B. Leshikar

2004 to Present
President Brian A. Vanicek

State Youth Directors

1953 to 1955
Birdie Hilsher Pech

1964 to 1965
Jim Kucera

1965 to 1971
James J. Janousek

1971 to 1980
Dorothy Massey

1980 to 1983
Jann Wilson

1985 to 1987
Sue Meadows

1987 to 1991
Claudette Reese

1991 to 1998
Joni Lange

1998 to 2004
Melanie Zavodny

2004
Trissa Klement

2004 to 2010
John Hoelscher

2010 to 2012
Frank Horak

2013 to 2017
Lynette Talasek

2017 to Present
State Fraternal Director
Frank Horak

District Youth Counselors

District One

Lillie Matejka, 1960-1969
Lola Vavra, 1969-1970
Alvin Vavra, 1970-1972
Lola Vavra, 1972-1976
Melinda (Faust) Wilson, 1976-1980
Marlene (Horak) Strong, 1980-1983
Susan Skrabanek, 1984 to 2013
Sharon Russell, 2013 to Present

District Two

Clara Hejl, 1960-1965
Emily (Mikeska) Stuteville,
1965-1969
Jerlene Balusek, 1969-1971
Frank Klinkovsky, 1971-1988
Patsy Koslovsky, 1989 to Present

District Three

Emma Ceska, 1957-1960
Wilma Nesuda, 1960-1965
Carol Ann Nesuda 1965-1966
Wilma Nesuda 1966-1977
Ed Kamas, 1977-1981
Bessie Petr, 1982 to 2014
Kay Weeks, 2014 to 2018
Mary Steinman, 2018 to Present

District Four

Julia Bayer, 1960
Mary Haisler, 1960-1985
Susan Bohnenberger, 1986-1989
Sandra Jansa, 1990-2003
Leta Cross, 2003-2006

Janice Stevens, 2006 to 2012
Beverly Teplicek, 2012 to 2014
Pam Lehmann, 2014 to Present

District Five

Maxine Sefcik, 1958-1964
Tillie Helmcamp, 1964-1967
Evelyn Mattes, 1968-1969
Wanda Kennedy, 1969-1971
Geraldine Mikolajewski, 1971-1972
Tom Caraway, 1972-1973
Marlene Caraway, 1973-1976
Richard Wahlberg, 1976-1981
Joyce Mynar, 1981-1982
Dorothy Pflughaupt, 1983-1986
Marie Stayton, 1987-2003
Barbara Linney-Gonzales, 2003 to 2019
Melissa Victorick-Brown,
2019 to Present

District Six

Elsie Brdecka, 1956-1980
Janet Marek, 1980-1986
Anita Roye, 1987-1991
Karen Kaspar, 1992
Marcy Dorotik, 1993-2008
Lisa Bubela, 2008 to Present

District Seven

Marcella Kleprlik, 1959-1964
Maxine Pavliska, 1964-1992
Susan Bohnenberger, 1993-1999
Liz Bielefeld, 1999-2003
Wendy Pruski, 2004 to 2015
Theresa Haag, 2015 to 2016
Lian Pruski, 2016 to 2018
April Howard, 2018 to Present



Mr. and Miss SPJST

The Miss SPJST Contest began at the 1960 convention. Miss SPJST was selected at each quadrennial SPJST convention from 1960 to 1980. Miss SPJST Winners were:

1960

Sandra Watson
District Five; Lodge 166, Beaumont

1964

Betty Jo Machann
District Five; Lodge 88, Houston

1968

Joan Pavliska
District Seven;
Lodge 107, Floresville

1972

Kathy Simcik
District Four;
Lodge 160, San Angelo

1976

Mary Cavanaugh
District Two; Lodge 20, Granger

1980

Charlotte Banik
District Three; Lodge 35, Elk

At the 1992 and 1996 conventions, Mr. and Miss SPJST Contests were held. Contestants ranged in age from 18 to 22 years. They were judged on speech, talent, and personal interview. Past Mr. and Miss SPJST winners are:

1992

Mr. SPJST Michael Morris
District Two; Lodge 47, Seaton

Miss SPJST Lori Everett
District One; Lodge 39, Bryan

1996

Mr. SPJST Jason Hermis
District Five; Lodge 142, Houston

Miss SPJST Meribeth Novak
District Three; Lodge 84, Dallas

At the 1996 convention, delegates voted for a Youth Spectacular at the conventions instead of the Mr. and Miss SPJST contest. The Youth Spectacular featured youth club talent acts from across the state and was held at the 2000 and 2004 conventions.

SPJST State Merit Scholarship Winners

In 1970, a \$250 scholarship was awarded at State YAD to the youngsters who had earned the most merit points in his/her lodge over the preceding three-year period. Today, a \$1,500 scholarship is presented at State YAD to a teen youth club member. The teen from each district with the most total merit points over the previous three years is eligible to compete for this scholarship. The top teen submits an 850- to 1,000-word essay that is judged on neatness, content and mechanics. The winners of the SPJST State Merit Scholarships have been as follows:

1970

Debbie Sodek
District Two; Lodge 47, Seaton

1971

Karl Mahdak
District Three; Lodge 84, Dallas

1972

Sally Sembera
District Six; Lodge 153, LaSalle

1973

Connie Hrnrcir
District Seven;
Lodge 117, Robstown

1974

Carol Dobecka
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1975

Debbie Uptmor
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1976

Douglas Uptmor
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1977

Joyce Wachsmann
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1978

David Dobecka
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1979

Edward Hykel, Jr.
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1980

Jan Schoenemann
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

Robert Hykel
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1981

Delores Dobecka
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1982

Sandra Schoeneman
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1983

Terry Hykel
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1984

Darrell Uptmor
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1985

Shirley Dobecka
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1986

Loree Kovar
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1987
Donna Schoeneman
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1988
John See, III
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1989
Scott McKenney
District Two; Lodge 74, Lovelady

1990
Cheryl Schoeneman
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1991
Melissa Victorick
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1992
Chad Kovar
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1993
Rebekah See
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1994
Sharon Borak
District Six;
Lodge 40, El Campo Hillje

1995
John Buri
District Five; Lodge 142, Houston

1996
Kathryn Kovar
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1997
Karen Bender
District Five; Lodge 88, Houston

1998
Amy Gaas
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1999
Justin Engelke
District Three; Lodge 66, Waco

2000
Jason Gaas
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

2001
Candice Macik
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

2002
Nathan Block
District Four;
Lodge 160, San Angelo

2003
Crystal Bartek
District Two; Lodge 47, Seaton

2004
Phillip Barta
District Seven;
Lodge 202, Jourdanton

2005
Kyle Skrabanek
District One; Lodge 17, New Tabor

2006
Lindsey Jones
District One; Lodge 17, New Tabor

2007
Victoria Pajestka
District Two; Lodge 80, Holland

2008
Amber Penn
District Two; Lodge 24, Cyclone

2009
Anna Dulock
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

2010
Stephanie Vanicek
District Two; Lodge 24, Cyclone

2011
Samuel Vanicek
District Two; Lodge 24, Cyclone

2012
Zachary Shelfer
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

2013
Audree Williams
District Four;
Lodge 215, South Plains

2014
Samuel Hoggard
District Seven;
Lodge 202, Jourdanton

2015
Brady Alexander
District Two; Lodge 47, Seaton

2016
Amanda Hoggard
District Seven;
Lodge 202, Jourdanton

2017
April Dvorak
District Three; Lodge 25, Ennis

2018
Brittany Baker
District Six; Lodge 30, Taiton

SPJST State Royalty

The king and queen are selected on the basis of the presentation of a prepared speech during which they are scored on content, delivery and overall poise. All of the individuals competing for the titles of SPJST State King and SPJST State Queen are winners in their own right, having been selected to represent their respective districts as king and queen candidates. The first SPJST State Queen was selected in 1963 and an SPJST State King was added for the first time in 1966.

Today's winning representatives receive scholarships and represent SPJST at various statewide functions, parades and festivals and various city and community events. The following is a listing of past statewide king and queen winners:

1963
Queen Frances Miller
District Three
Lodge 66, Waco

1964
Queen Lillie Mae Melnar
District Five
Lodge 142, Houston

1965

Queen Susan Ilse
District Six
Lodge 30, Taiton

1966

Queen Frances Kudrna
District Three
Lodge 25, Ennis

King Randy Dodgen
District Two
Lodge 87, Temple

1967

Queen Bonnie Cox
District Five
Lodge 88, Houston

King Ernie Makovy
District Three
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1968

Queen Karen Matl
District Two
Lodge 87, Temple

King Robert Leshikar
District Two
Lodge 48, Beyersville

1969

Queen Janice Haskovec
District Three
Lodge 25, Ennis

King Robert Urban
District Three
Lodge 84, Dallas

1970

Queen Patsy Kalina
District Six
Lodge 58, Hungerford

King Theodore Dusek, Jr.
District One
Lodge 17, New Tabor

1971

Queen Pat Parma
District Three
Lodge 130, Dallas

King Anton Kaluza
District Three
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1972

Queen Connie Hrnecir
District Seven
Lodge 117, Robstown

King Marvin Patak
District Three
Lodge 135, Ennis

1973

Queen Cindy Horak
District Three
Lodge 84, Dallas

King Lin Lesak
District Five
Lodge 88, Houston

1974

Queen Jo Beth Hornung
District Seven
Lodge 117, Robstown

King Scott Eliff
District Seven
Lodge 117, Robstown

1975

Queen Jan Hajda
District Two
Lodge 20, Granger

King Stephen Parrish
District Two
Lodge 74, Lovelady

1976

Queen Charlotte Banik
District Three
Lodge 35, Elk

King Randy Flasowski
District Two
Lodge 74, Lovelady

1977

Queen Donna Trcalek
District One
Lodge 17, New Tabor

King Steven Stanislav
District Three
Lodge 66, Waco

1978

Queen Tena Urbanek
District Three
Lodge 66, Waco

King Donnie Lueck
District Two
Lodge 177, Academy

1979

Queen Kelly Cavanaugh
District Two
Lodge 20, Granger

King Terry Wayne Loessin
District Two
Lodge 20, Granger

1980

Queen Carol Skrabanek
District Three
Lodge 130, Dallas

King Eddie Banik
District Three
Lodge 35, Elk

1981

Queen Kelly Korenek
District Six
Lodge 30, Taiton

King Joe Prachyl
District Three
Lodge 84, Dallas

1982

Queen Mandy Mikulencak
District Two
Lodge 20, Granger

King Darrin Banik
District Three
Lodge 35, Elk

1983

Queen Shana Patterson
District Two
Lodge 47, Seaton

King Donald Steinke
District Three
Lodge 35, Elk

1984

Queen Staci Engel
District Seven
Lodge 117, Robstown

King Joe Landin
District Seven
Lodge 117, Robstown

1985

Queen Lisa Reznik
District Three
Lodge 84, Dallas

King Michael Marek
District Six
Lodge 40, El Campo Hillje

1986

Queen Sheri Michka
District Two
Lodge 74, Lovelady

King John See, III
District One
Lodge 9, Snook

1987

Queen Melissa Victorick
District One
Lodge 9, Snook

King Michael Morris
District Two
Lodge 47, Seaton

1988

Queen Marcy Dorotik
District Six
Lodge 30, Taiton

King Daryl Kortis
District Two
Lodge 47, Seaton

1989

Queen Stephanie Roye
District Six
Lodge 30, Taiton

King Brian Becan
District Three
Lodge 84, Dallas

1990

Queen Leslie Barnes
District Three
Lodge 84, Dallas

King Jason Reese
District Two
Lodge 47, Seaton

1991

Queen Bridget Schwartz
District Four
Lodge 160, San Angelo

King Tommy Rieger
District Two
Lodge 29, Taylor

1992

Queen Lindsey Michalak
District Five
Lodge 88, Houston

King Paul Pflughaupt
District Five
Lodge 88, Houston

1993

Queen Valerie Roye
District Six
Lodge 30, Taiton

King John Buri
District Five
Lodge 142, Houston

1994

Queen Delia Wiederhold
District One
Lodge 13, Dime Box

King Jason Cervenka
District Two
Lodge 29, Taylor

1995

Queen Brandi Dum
District Six
Lodge 97, Placedo

King C.J. Novak
District Three
Lodge 84, Dallas

1996

Queen Karen Bender
District Five
Lodge 88, Houston

King Justin Engelke
District Three
Lodge 66, Waco

1997

Queen Elizabeth Wagner
District Six
Lodge 4, Hallettsville

King J.J. Novak
District Three
Lodge 84, Dallas

1998

Queen Jennifer Block
District Four
Lodge 160, San Angelo

King Jonathan Haag
District Seven
Lodge 185, New Braunfels

1999

Queen Colette Kenney
District Three
Lodge 84, Dallas

King Paxton Davies
District Three
Lodge 92, Fort Worth

2000

Queen Megan Marcaurele
District Six
Lodge 30, Taiton

King Jarod Olds
District Three
Lodge 84, Dallas

2001

Queen Jamie Lyn Novak
District Three
Lodge 84, Dallas

King Nathan Block
District Four
Lodge 160, San Angelo

2002

Queen Marche Olds
District Three
Lodge 84, Dallas

King Jake Holland
District Three
Lodge 25, Ennis

2003

Queen Alicia Ford
District One
Lodge 13, Dime Box

King Dale Korth
District One
Lodge 13, Dime Box

2004

Queen Jessica Schumann
District One
Lodge 13, Dime Box

King Joshua Siptak
District Six
Lodge 4, Hallettsville

2005

Queen Rachel Hunter
District Three
Lodge 25, Ennis

King Nick Culliton
District Three
Lodge 183, Arlington

2006

Queen Raychel Anne Clark
District Three
Lodge 25, Ennis

King Ryan Patrick Edwards
District Three
Lodge 84, Dallas

2007

Queen Lindsey Jones
District One
Lodge 17, New Tabor

King Colby Havemann
District One
Lodge 17, New Tabor

2008

Queen Alexa Hubenek
District Three
Lodge 92, Fort Worth

King Gerard Marcaurele
District Six
Lodge 30, Taiton

2009

Queen Grace Dusek
District One
Lodge 17, New Tabor

King Jackson Durham
District Three
Lodge 92, Fort Worth

2010

Queen Jacqueline Klaus
District Two
Lodge 29, Taylor

King Samuel Vanicek
District Two
Lodge 24, Cyclone

2011

Queen Alyssa Torres
District Two
Lodge 48, Beyersville

King Robert Lewis
District One
Lodge 9, Snook

2012

Queen Emily Lewis
District One
Lodge 9, Snook

King Jerry Pechal
District Two
Lodge 47, Seaton

2013

Queen Julia Zavodny
District Two
Lodge 47, Seaton

King Sammy Hoggard
District Seven
Lodge 202, Jourdanton

2014

Queen Denae Bronikowski
District Five
Lodge 88, Houston

King Nikolas Faust
District One
Lodge 9, Snook

2015

Queen Kacie Vanecek
District Two
Lodge 48, Beyersville

King Brady Alexander
District Two
Lodge 47, Seaton

2016

Queen Amanda Hoggard
District Seven
Lodge 202, Jourdanton

King Colby See
District One
Lodge 9, Snook

2017

Queen April Dvorak
District Three
Lodge 25, Ennis

King Austen Holland
District Three
Lodge 25, Ennis

2018

Queen Kelly House
District Seven
Lodge 202, Jourdanton

King Nash Campbell
District Two
Lodge 24, Cyclone



State Merit Point Winners

Beginning in 1958, recognition was given to the youth who accumulated the most points under the merit point system. They received plaques. There was no prohibition against winning the award two or more years in succession. The recipients were:

1958

Carole Nemeč
District Three; Lodge 84, Dallas

1959

James Janousek
District Three; Lodge 84, Dallas

1962

Larry Petr
District Three; Lodge 84, Dallas

1963

Kathy Vrla
District Three; Lodge 130, Dallas

1964

Kathy Vrla
District Three; Lodge 130, Dallas

1965

Bonnie Sue Cox
District Five; Lodge 88, Houston

Top Teens and Top Juniors

Beginning in 1966, the merit point winners were divided into two age groups, teens and juniors. Again, there was no prohibition on winning the award more than once. Today, a youth may only receive the award once. The State Teen of the Year and the State Junior of the Year awards are presented at State YAD. Each youth receives a plaque and \$25. The listing of winners is:

★ ★ Teens of the Year ★ ★

1966

Kathy Dixon
District Five; Lodge 88, Houston

1967

Jimmy Fucik
District Six; Lodge 30, Taiton

1968

Debbie Sodek
District Two; Lodge 47, Seaton

1969

Dana Balusek
District Two; Lodge 47, Seaton

1970

Sally Sembera
District Six; Lodge 153, LaSalle

1971

Karl Mahdak
District Three; Lodge 84, Dallas

1972

Karen Dorotik
District Six; Lodge 30, Taiton

1973

Debbie Uptmor
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1974

Debbie Uptmor
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1975

Debbie Uptmor
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1976

Douglas Uptmor
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1977

Joyce Wachsmann
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1978

David Dobecka
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1979

Delores Dobecka
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1980

Jan Schoenemann
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1981

Jan Schoenemann
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1982

Darrell Uptmor
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1983

Scott McKenney
District Two; Lodge 74, Lovelady

1984

Darrell Uptmor
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1985

Donna Schoeneman
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1986

John See, III
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

Donna Schoeneman
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1987

John See, III
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1988

Marcy Dorotik
District Six; Lodge 30, Taiton

1989

Marcy Dorotik
District Six; Lodge 30, Taiton

1990

Cheryl Schoeneman
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1991

Melissa Victorick
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1992

Mica Petty
District One; Lodge 17, New Tabor

1993

Rebekah See
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1994

Randall See
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1995

Kathryn Kovar
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1996

Amy Gaas
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1997

Justin Engelke
District Three; Lodge 66, Waco

1998

Jason Gaas
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1999

Candice Macik
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

2000

Heather Slenk
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

2001

Kirby Bubela
District Six; Lodge 30, Taiton

2002

Kyle Kaspar
District Six; Lodge 30, Taiton

2003

Traci Dobecka
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

2004

Kyle Skrabanek
District One; Lodge 17, New Tabor

2005

Victoria Pajestka
District Two; Lodge 80, Holland

2006

Bradley Shelfer
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

2007

Cyril Pajestka
District Two; Lodge 80, Holland

2008

Blake Ryan
District Three; Lodge 25, Ennis

2009

Kenna Bubela
District Six; Lodge 30, Taiton

2010

Zachary Shelfer
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

2011

Samuel Vanicek
District Two; Lodge 24, Cyclone

2012

Brandon Hoelscher
District Two; Lodge 47, Seaton

2013

Brittanie Gaas
District One; Lodge 17, New Tabor

2014

Brady Alexander
District Two; Lodge 47, Seaton

2015

Justin Kraatz
District Two; Lodge 47, Seaton

2016

Dillon Narro
District One; Lodge 17, New Tabor

2017

Grace Lewis
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

2018 (tie)

Macy Narro
District One; Lodge 17, New Tabor

Kelly House

District Seven;
Lodge 202, Jourdanton

★ ★ Juniors of the Year ★ ★

1966

Marian Dorotik
District Six; Lodge 30, Taiton

1967

Susan Schenburn
District Five; Lodge 88, Houston

1968

Sally Sembera
District Six; Lodge 153, LaSalle

1969

Sally Sembera
District Six; Lodge 153, LaSalle

1970

Marilyn Vincik
District Six; Lodge 153, LaSalle

1971

Douglas Uptmor
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1972

Debbie Uptmor
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1973

Douglas Uptmor
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1974

Jeannetta Klechka
District Five; Lodge 172, Pasadena

1975

Darrell Uptmor
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1976

Darrell Uptmor
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1977

Darrell Uptmor
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1978

Darrell Uptmor
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1979

Darrell Uptmor
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1980

Darrell Uptmor
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1981

Darrell Uptmor
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1982

Shirley Dobecka
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1983

Kevin Dobecka
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1984

Kevin Dobecka
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1985

Cheryl Schoeneman
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1986

Ashley Victorick
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1987

Tammi Dobecka
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

1988

Rebekah See
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1989

Rebekah See
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1990

Sandra Trickett
District Three; Lodge 66, Waco

1991

Kathryn Kovar
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1992

Mabrey Petty and Marshall Petty
District One; Lodge 17, New Tabor

1993

Candace Macik
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1994

Amy Gaas
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1995

Dwayne Macik
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1996

Heather Slenk
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1997

Kimberly Gaas
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

1998

Douglas Galler
District Three; Lodge 66, Waco

1999

Lucas Schoppe
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

2000

Traci Dobecka
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

2001

Christi Sparkman
District Three;
Lodge 6, Cottonwood

2002

Travis Purchis
District Seven;
Lodge 107, Floresville

2003

Bradley Shelfer
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

2004

Victoria Pajestka
District Two; Lodge 80, Holland

2005

Cyril Pajestka
District Two; Lodge 80, Holland

2006

Zachery Shelfer
District One; Lodge 9, Snook

2007

Mikhaila Nelson
District Two; Lodge 18, Elgin

2008

Samantha White
District Two; Lodge 80, Holland

2009

Allison Wockenfuss
District Five; Lodge 88, Houston

2010

Brandon Hoelscher
District Two; Lodge 47, Seaton

2011

Dillon Narro and Macy Narro (tie)
District One; Lodge 17, New Tabor

2012

Justin Kraatz
District Two; Lodge 47, Seaton

2013

Brandon Teplicek
District Four; Lodge 49, Rowena

2014

Brandon Girod
District Two; Lodge 29, Taylor

2015

Hunter Wood and Tanner Wood (tie)
District Four; Lodge 49, Rowena

2016

Jered Polly and Nathan Polly (tie)
District Five; Lodge 88, Houston

2017

Keith Wockenfuss
District Five; Lodge 88, Houston

2018

Tyson Bilbrey
District Two; Lodge 47, Seaton

SPJST Camp Tee-Shirt Design Contest Winners

Beginning in 1988, the Youth Program sponsored a tee-shirt design contest for youth members to create an artistic design for summer camp tee-shirts. Grand prize winners are:

1988

Darlene Migl
District Five
Lodge 88, Houston

1989

Marlene Migl
District Five
Lodge 88, Houston

1990

Stephanie Roye
District Six
Lodge 30, Taiton

1991

Lisa Reck
District Six
Lodge 40, El Campo

1992

Laura Spanel-Weber
District Two
Lodge 20, Granger

1993

Nicholas Rackel
District One
Lodge 13, Dime Box

1994

Jessica Kelner
District Six
Lodge 28, East Bernard

1995

Candice Macik
District One
Lodge 9, Snook

1996

Scott Hudson
District Two
Lodge 24, Cyclone

1997

Karen Bender
District Five
Lodge 88, Houston

1998

Tracey Dusek
District Four
Lodge 160, San Angelo

1999

Jessica Kelner
District Six
Lodge 28, East Bernard

2000

Kyle Skrabanek
District One
Lodge 17, New Tabor

2001

Jessica Lyon
District Two
Lodge 177, Academy

2002

Jeannie Beckendorf
District Two
Lodge 182, Falls County

2003

Blake Ryan
District Three
Lodge 25, Ennis

2004

Kimberley Huizar
District Seven
Lodge 202, Jourdanton

2005

Domingo Gonzales, III
District Seven
Lodge 202, Jourdanton

2006

Stephanie Vanicek
District Two
Lodge 24, Cyclone

2007

Brooke Hoelscher
District Two
Lodge 47, Seaton

2008

Ryan Bronikowski
District Five
Lodge 88, Houston

2009

Stephanie Vanicek
District Two
Lodge 24, Cyclone

2010

Rachel McManus
District Three
Lodge 84, Dallas

2011

Colby Havemann
District One
Lodge 17, New Tabor

2012

Brooke Hoelscher
District Two
Lodge 47, Seaton

2013

Sydney Faust
District One
Lodge 9, Snook

2014

Weston Beasley
District One
Lodge 17, New Tabor

2015

Bethany Baker
District Six
Lodge 30, Taiton

2016

Riley Green
District One
Lodge 9, Snook

2017

Jered Polly
District Five
Lodge 88, Houston

2018

Zac Coleman
District Five
Lodge 142, Houston

2019

Angel Pace
District Three
Lodge 154, Fort Worth



SAVE THE DATE



Make plans now to attend the
**13TH ANNUAL
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Enjoy a fun-filled weekend with family and friends at the Emerald Beach Hotel in Corpus Christi.

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2019 - 2020 Handbook



SPJST Youth Clubs

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