

Governor Dolph Briscoe, Jr.
Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL) Program

A:

Selection Procedure TALL XX 2026-2028

The Governor Dolph Briscoe, Jr. Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL) program is designed for men and women to enhance their leadership careers. This is a program sponsored by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, a part of the Texas A&M System. Applicants must be a U.S. citizen, a resident of Texas and/or have agricultural investments in Texas with a commitment to Texas agriculture and associated industries. Oversight of the TALL Program is entrusted to the TALL Advisory Board. This board is comprised of leaders from across the state that is representative of agriculture and includes producers, business, commodity groups, members of government and academia. They establish parameters of the program and direct the Executive Director to administer the program within these guidelines. The board or its designees, Compliance Committee, will monitor participant compliance. Noncompliance could result in dismissal from the program.

Following is the selection criteria:

Applicant must be actively involved in farming, ranching or business closely related to agriculture which includes the food and fiber industries.

Applicants must have at least four (4) years of full-time employment experience past university graduation or at least eight (8) years of full-time employment experience past high school graduation for non-university graduates.

Men and women are equally encouraged to participate.

Spouse, brothers/sisters will not be selected in the same class

Faculty of colleges, universities, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A&M University System, and secondary school systems working in agricultural fields are not eligible to participate.

Candidates must document to the satisfaction of the selection committee that he/she will be able to be away from the farm, ranch, business and/or home as required for full participation in the program. A document is required stating that spouse, employer, partners or other persons with a vested interest understand the time requirements for participation and support the applicant's candidacy.

Applicant must demonstrate ability to participate meaningfully in academic seminars, outside reading, written assignments, and thorough self-expression during the selection interview.

The applicant must support and abide by all policies, rules and regulations of the Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Advisory Board. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the program.

Applicants will be reviewed for the following qualities:

Leadership Integrity	Potential for Growth
Leadership Effectiveness	Commitment to Participate
Analytical Skills	Vocational Commitment
Communication Skills	Overall Leadership Potential

There are no specific education requirements.

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Participants

The Selection Committee shall select approximately 24 participants from a pool of qualified applicants. Participants will be selected from across the state, without regard to socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. It is not unusual for candidates to apply more than once before acceptance. Repeat applications are encouraged.

Applicants who meet the eligibility requirements will be evaluated on the information obtained from the application form and references. The final selection will be made from those chosen by the Selection Committee for personal interview.

March 15,2026	Applications postmarked and/or due in the TALL program office
Late March 2026	Applicants notified on interview selection
April & May 2026	Interviews with selected applicants
June 2026	Cohort announced

Proposed Calendar

*(*ALL Dates Subject to Change Due to Any Unforeseen Circumstances*)*

SEMINAR	LOCATION	DATE
1	College Station	July 21-24, 2026
2	Lubbock/Amarillo	October 19-23, 2026
3	Austin/Edwards Plateau	January 19-23, 2027
4	Washington D.C./ Maryland/New York	April 3-10, 2027
5	Houston/Gulf Coast	July 12-16, 2027
6	California	September 5-10, 2027
7	Corpus Christi / McAllen	November 7-12, 2027
8	Tyler/East Texas	January 16-21, 2028
9	TBA	April 18 – May 1, 2028
10	College Station - Graduation	June 16, 2028

TALL XX PROPOSED CURRICULUM & CALENDAR

(*ALL Dates Subject to Change Due to Any Unforeseen Circumstances*)

DATE	LOCATION	ISSUE(S)	LEADERSHIP THEME
July 21-24, 2026	College Station #1	Team & Group Dynamics, Semantics of Teams, TAM System, Professional Image & Etiquette, Challenge Course (ROPES), Bush Presidential Library, Brazos Valley Agriculture, Agriculture Research.	Extension, Education, Expectations
October 19-23, 2026	Lubbock/Amarillo #2	Feedlots, Packing Plants, Grapes, Wheat, Corn, Dairy, Cotton, Soybean, Grain Sorghum, Peanuts, Equine, Irrigation, Texas Tech University and Agriculture Research.	<i>Production, Producers, Progress</i>
January 19-23, 2027	Austin/Edwards Plateau #3	-State Government: Legislative Process, Agencies, Taxes & Appropriations, Trade, Judicial Process, Transportation. -Water, Brush Control, Sheep, Goats and Wildlife	Leadership, Legislation, Laws
April 3-10, 2027	Washington D.C./ Maryland/New York #4	-National Government: Congressional Process, Agencies, Homeland Security, Financial District, Textiles, Trade, Transportation, Port Authority, Food Distribution, New England Agriculture, water, regulations and Labor.	Leadership, Legislation, Laws / DC Economics, Exports, Environment
July 12-16, 2027	Houston/Gulf Coast #5	Gulf Coast Agriculture: Equine, Agriculture, rice, cattle, fish, corn, farm equipment, environmental issues. Urban Agriculture: retail markets, food distribution, food security, Ag Corporations, transportation, Port of Houston and Port of Galveston.	Exports, Economics, Environment
September 5-10, 2027	California #6	Ag Policy, Immigration, Labor, Environmental Issues, Endangered Species, Water-Energy, Regulation, Citrus, Cotton, Corn, Vegetables, Fruits & Nuts, Salinity, Air Quality, wineries, Salinity, Air Quality and Ag Policy.	Employment, Emigration, Environment
November 7-12, 2027	Corpus Christi / McAllen #7	South Texas Agriculture: Cotton, Grain Sorghum, Sugar Cane, Citrus, Vegetables; Irrigation Districts; Port Authority - Land & Sea; Immigration, Border Wall, Texas A&M Kingsville and Texas A&M Corpus Christi	Exports, Economics, Emigration
January 16-21, 2028	Tyler/East Texas #8	Forestry, Fisheries, Livestock, Poultry, Horticulture, Food Distribution, Value Added Processing, Endangered Species, Wetlands, Stephen F. Austin University, Agriculture Research.	Production, Producers, Progress
April 18 – May 1, 2028	TBA #9	International Trade & World Markets, Production Practices, Critical Issues, Government Policy, Labor, Competitiveness, Foreign Cultures, Customs and Values.	Competition, Communication, Culture
June 16, 2028	College Station	TALL-Alumni Annual Meeting; TALL Advisory Board Annual Meeting and TALL Foundation Board Meeting	Graduation

C:

EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF TALL XX CLASS MEMBERS

EXPECTATIONS

It is expected that TALL class members will actively participate in all meetings and activities with:

an open and inquiring mind, a
willingness to learn,
a respect for opinions of those not in agreement with their own,
a commitment to communicate class activities and
experiences,
and a commitment to greater service for the betterment of agriculture
in their own community, Texas, and the United States.

A time commitment of approximately 45 days is required during the two-year program period. Leadership is a commitment. If you are to participate, you must fulfill the obligation.

Communication and personal skill development are important parts of the curriculum with the idea that knowledge is good for the individual, only if it can be diplomatically shared with others.

CONDUCT

Those selected for TALL are fortunate. Selection into the program automatically sets the participants apart, placing them among a highly acclaimed group. Each class member has proven to have leadership potential. Each is expected to conduct himself/herself as a responsible leader. The values of the TALL program are respected statewide, and each participant is expected to uphold those values. Along with the honor of being a member of TALL comes the responsibility to themselves, their classmates, and the agricultural community to exemplify the utmost personal and professional standards. TALL Alumni, Directors of the TALL Advisory Board, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, and the hundreds of supporters expect mature and responsible behavior from all TALL participants.

PARTICIPATION

Attendance Requirement:

Missed seminars cost both the participant and the program. It is realized that TALL class members have responsibilities to their families, professions, and organizations, and sometimes conflicts occur and/or are unavoidable. **TALL class members will be responsible for notifying the Program Director no later than 10 days before the seminar if they will not be present.** Attendance at all seminars is a priority concern of the TALL Advisory Board resulting in specific guidelines and disciplinary action in cases of unexcused absences. Assumed excused absences might be:

- Family Emergency
- Legitimate Business Emergency
- Illness
- Natural Disaster
- Legal Requirements

It is expected that each participant will attend every seminar in its entirety.

Unexcused absences, tardiness and early departures will be accumulated on an hourly basis to represent total missed seminar time.

Unexcused absences totaling one seminar will result in official notice of concern from the TALL Advisory Board.

Unexcused absences totaling two seminars will result in loss of the international experience. Unexcused absences totaling three seminars will result in dismissal from the TALL program.

There should be no late arrivals or early departures from the seminars. All absences, late arrivals and early departures will be recorded.

* Details of the attendance policy will be explained and distributed at the first seminar.

Spouses

It is very important that the spouses of TALL class members be knowledgeable of the program and supportive of participation of the spouse from the very beginning. A major commitment has been made by class participants and their spouses must pledge total support. It is TALL's aspiration for spouses to be an integral part of the TALL experience and to play a major role in alumni activities. Class member communication is encouraged with their spouse on all activities with participation allowed at graduation at your own expense.

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Financial Obligations

Tuition:

If selected, a tuition fee of \$3,000 will be required. If preferred, tuition may be paid in three installments of \$1,000, with the first payment due by July 1, 2026, 2ND payment January 1, 2027, and the 3rd July 1, 2027. Late payment could forfeit your participation in the class.

In-state transportation to the meeting site and some miscellaneous expenses must be borne by the participant.

Hotel Rooms:

All TALL class members will share a room with an assigned roommate. Room assignments will change with each seminar. The cost of the room is paid by the TALL program.

Incidentals:

All incidental expenses (i.e., parking, telephone, room service, bar, TV movies, etc.) incurred by participants at hotels must be paid by class members at the time of the service or departure.

Meals:

Nearly all meals are arranged and paid for by the TALL program. At times group meal functions are impossible to organize requiring individual TALL members to arrange a “meal on your own.”

Transportation:

In-state transportation to the seminar site and some miscellaneous transportation expenses, i.e., taxi, must be borne by participant. Ex: Participant must be responsible for getting to and from College Station, Lubbock/Amarillo, Austin/San Angelo/Sonora, Houston, Corpus Christi/McAllen, Ft. Worth/Tyler/Nacogdoches.

Out-of-state transportation to the hub city and some miscellaneous transportation expenses, i.e., taxi, must be borne by participant. Ex: Participant must be responsible for getting to and from Sacramento/Fresno and Washington D.C./New York City.

International transportation to the in-state hub city and some miscellaneous transportation expenses, i.e., taxi, must be borne by participant. Ex: Participant must be responsible for getting to and from the Texas International airport selected by the TALL Program such as Houston or Dallas.

***(the hub is where the cohort convenes)**

DRESS CODE

As with any business or distinguished program, participants should always present themselves in a professional manner. Following are dress codes and their definition:

<i>Business Attire</i>	
<i>MEN</i>	<i>WOMEN</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business suit with collared shirt • Nice slacks or pressed khaki pants with collared shirt • Sports coat or jacket & tie • Polished/clean shoes or boots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business suit or dress • Slacks or mid-length skirt with blazer or jacket and blouse • Flats or dress shoes or dressy boots (polished/clean)
<i>Business Casual Attire</i>	
<i>MEN</i>	<i>WOMEN</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nice slacks or pressed khaki pants • Dark denim jeans (must be clean and free of rips, tears, and fraying; may not be excessively tight or revealing) • Collared shirt or polo/golf shirt • Sports jacket or suit jacket (no tie required) • Polished/clean shoes/boots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nice slacks/dress pants, pressed khaki pants or mid-length skirt • Dark denim jeans (must be clean and free of rips, tears, and fraying; may not be excessively tight or revealing) • Blouse, polo, sweaters, or cardigan • Blazer or jacket (optional) • Dresses and skirts or maxi skirts • Flats, sandals, low-heeled shoes or boots

**** Seldom will shorts be appropriate. However, if those occasions arise participants will be notified. ****

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MISCELLANEOUS

(Please Initial in designated area)

X

1. **Narratives** - A narrative report (at least 3 pages, typed if possible) will be required after each seminar and due 2 weeks after the last day of the seminar. The narrative should report on the following: 1) What was learned each day, 2) What change has taken place in your attitude concerning you, your life, your job, your career, your family or any other changes, 3) What was different about your expectations of this seminar, 4) What did you bring back to be shared to help trade relations, future markets, incorporate new and old innovations, utilize new technology and to educate your colleagues.

X

2. **Evaluations** - An evaluation will be required after each seminar and due 2 weeks after the last day of the seminar. The evaluation form will be provided by the TALL office.

X

3. **Speaking Engagements** - Following each of the eight sessions, every participant will be required to provide a minimum of two speaking engagements, educational talks, press releases (or a combination thereof) within their community and/or industry regarding their class activities and experiences of that session. These will be shared with all class participants at the next session. (They might include: Farm Bureau, FFA Chapter, 4H Clubs, civic organizations, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service area committees, church groups, commodity groups, office co-workers, etc.)

X

4. **Homework assignments** - Homework will be assigned by teams. The assignment will include research on Texas, California, Washington DC/New York City and the location of the international trip.

Items 1-4 are strict requirements promulgated by the TALL Advisory Board. Failure to comply with any of the specified items or failure to meet requirements will result in dismissal from the program.

5. **TALL briefcases, name badges and notebooks** - The TALL briefcases, name badges and notebooks are provided to your courtesy of the TALL Program. You are required to wear your name badge at each session and if you lose your name badge you will incur the cost of a new one.

6. **Passports** - Each TALL XX participant will be required to have a passport by **January 1, 2027**. Forms may be obtained from the post office. You will need a legal (certified copy) of your birth certificate to obtain a passport. Passports will be used for security clearance while traveling.

7. **Numbering system** - Each TALL XX participant will be assigned a permanent Arabic number to be used to speed up roll call and account for attendance.

8. **Punctuality** - Being on time is of utmost importance. Each participant is expected to be on time if not early for each planned activity.

9. **Thank you notes** - Following each seminar, thank you notes will be required to be sent to speakers and sponsors. The TALL thank you notes will be provided to you and should be sent out by 2 weeks from the last day of the seminar.

C: continued
MISCELLANEOUS

10. **Presiding participants** - For each session, TALL participants will oversee a portion of the program. Responsibilities will include: 1) introduction of speakers; 2) take photos during each session; 3) obtain addresses of each speaker and/or sponsor, i.e. collect business cards; 4) present each speaker with tokens/gifts provided by TALL office; 5) oversee on-site classroom set-up (seating, lighting, audio-video equipment, refreshments, and meals).
11. **International Scribing** - Participants will be assigned to scribe a portion of the international seminar. Responsibilities include taking notes of who spoke to the class, what was presented, all activities that occurred during their assigned time, including a journal of the day's experiences. (*This is different from the narrative.*)
12. **Starting and ending times** - The starting time for each in-state seminar will begin at **1:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and end on 1:00 p.m. on Fridays.** On rare occasions this might change, however, all participants will be notified in advance.
13. **Address or e-mail changes** - Each TALL participant is responsible for updating their address and/or e-mail with the TALL office in a timely manner.
14. **Cellular phones** - All cell phones will be required to be turned off during any TALL session. However, they may be used during breaks or after seminar sessions.
15. **International trip** - Each TALL participant is expected to attend the International seminar; however, in the event that the participant cannot attend, the TALL participant is **required to notify the TALL Director in writing by February 1, 2027 that they cannot attend.** If the participant does not provide the requested notice, he/she will be required to pay for the cost of their participation in the international experience.
16. **Alcohol - No** TALL program funds are expended for alcoholic beverages. Individual purchases of alcoholic beverages should not be consumed during seminar activities. Intoxication is grounds for dismissal and/or termination. Tardiness due to the consumption of alcohol will not be tolerated.
17. **Tobacco** - The use of any tobacco product is forbidden during indoor meetings and/or classroom activities.

D:
Application Agreement TALL XX 2026-2028

The Application Agreement refers to pages 4-8 which outlines:

**THE EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
OF TALL XVIII CLASS MEMBER**

The development of leaders in agriculture requires a great deal of dedication from all involved parties, so please affirm your support and commitment to the TALL Program by affixing your signature and the respective date below. Your signature indicates that you have read, understood, and agree to abide by the expectations, responsibilities, and requirements presented forth in this document. Furthermore, you agree that once tuition has been paid, there is not a refund, full or partial.

Participant Name:

Date:

Participant Signature: