

“Participation is our Foundation as Leaders of Tomorrow”



51st

TOP TEENS OF AMERICA

Sponsored by Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.

**AREA V ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION PACKET**

Cultivating Our Collective Power:

Strengthening Chapters, Elevating Teens, Impacting Communities

March 26 - March 29, 2026

Holiday Inn Hotel & Event Center

Hosted by the Greater Cleveland Chapter

Teen Jordin McKinney, TTA Chapter President

Lady Joyce L. Walker, Greater Cleveland Chapter President

Teen Noah Guilford, National TTA President

Lady Crystal Pittman, National TTA Director

Lady Eddie Lee Marsh, National President and CEO

Teen Brandon Gary Jr., Area V TTA President

Lady Rosalyn Bilberry, Area V TTA Assistant Advisor

Lady Kemberley H. Jones, Area V TTA Advisor

Lady Velda A. Hunter, 16th National Area V Director



**WELCOME, AMAZING AREA V TOP TEENS!
GET READY TO GROW, GLOW & GO ALL THE WAY L.I.V.E.!**

Hello Brilliant Teens of Area V!

We are super excited to welcome you to an unforgettable experience designed just for YOU! This year promises new adventures, new friendships, bold leadership moments, and opportunities to stretch your gifts in ways you never imagined.

You are the heartbeat of Area V—dynamic, creative, powerful, and ready to rise. As we step into this new season together, we celebrate your courage to lead, your passion to serve, and your commitment to excellence. Every workshop, every challenge, every connection is crafted to help you shine even brighter!

Get ready to:

- Build sisterhood & brotherhood
- Strengthen your leadership voice
- Have fun while learning
- Grow in confidence, character, & purpose

Ignite the power within YOU to impact your chapter and your community!

Top Teens... this is YOUR time. YOUR moment. YOUR journey to greatness. And Area V is cheering for you every single step of the way!

So buckle up, bring your energy, and get ready to make memories and magic. Together, we are United to Serve — Legacy Rooted, Driven & Built to Lead, Inspire, and Vibe Excellence!

**LET'S GROW. LET'S GLOW. LET'S GO!
WELCOME TO AN EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCE. TOP
TEENS!**

Lady Velda A. Hunter

16th National Area V Director

“Participation is our Foundation as Leaders of Tomorrow”



Teen Brandon Gary Jr., Area V TTA President

Greetings Top Teens, Top Ladies, and Lords.

My name is Teen Brandon Gary Jr., and I am proud to serve you as the Area V TTA President. We are welcoming you to the 51st Area V Leadership Conference. This Legendary Conference is taking place in Cleveland, Ohio.

Teen Jordin Mckinney, Lady Kemberley Jones, and Lady Joyce Walker along with The Greater Cleveland Chapter, are excited to welcome Area V to their home!

I am looking forward to meeting you all during the 51st Area V Leadership Conference. Top Teens of America, under the leadership of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., is not just an organization, but is a loving community that equips Top Teens with powerful leadership skills.

Our theme for this conference is "Cultivating Our Collective Power: Strengthening Chapters, Elevating Teens, and Impacting Communities." Together, we are creating new opportunities for teens, building stronger chapters, and making a grand impact to our communities through service. I am looking forward to seeing you in Cleveland Ohio, March 26 - March 29, 2026. See you soon!

Empowered and inspired,

Teen Brandon Gary Jr.,
Area V TTA President
ttapresident20252027@gmail.com



Lady Kemberley H. Jones

Area V TTA Advisor



Greetings Area V Top Ladies, Top Teens, and Lords,

It is my honor and absolute pleasure, as your Area V TTA Advisor, to welcome you and encourage your full participation in the 51st Area V Leadership Conference, hosted in my city Cleveland Ohio, March 26-29, 2025, at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Event Center.

This conference invites us to embrace a powerful truth: our greatest strength is found in one another. When we gather with purpose, learn with intention, and lead with unity, we cultivate a collective power strong enough to elevate every chapter, develop every Teen, and enrich every community we serve. As you review this registration packet, I encourage you to not only register, but to make plans to be fully present, fully engaged, and fully inspired throughout the weekend. Area V is preparing an experience that will empower, motivate, and impact you deeply.

We proudly celebrate and acknowledge the extraordinary leaders whose stewardship and support make this conference possible: Lady Velda Hunter, our amazing National Area V Director, whose leadership continues to guide our Area with grace, and vision. Teen Brandon Gary Jr., Area V TTA President, whose energy and determination are truly 5 stars! Lady Joyce L. Walker, President of the Greater Cleveland Chapter of TLOD, whose commitment to service anchors our host chapter. Teen Jordin McKinney, President of the Greater Cleveland Chapter of TTA, who represents the excellence and enthusiasm of Cleveland's dynamic Teens. Conference Co-Chairs, Lady Tennille Power-Alexander and Lady Shukrea Seay, whose dedication and planning have crafted a conference experience that reflects the heart, history, and future of Area V.

Whether this is your first Area V Leadership Conference or your fifteenth, I encourage you to seize every moment. Build new connections. Strengthen chapter bonds. Engage in leadership opportunities. Support our Teens as they grow, speak, serve, and shine. And most importantly, allow this experience to renew your commitment to the mission of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and Top Teens of America. The 51st Area V Leadership Conference is more than an event... It is a movement. A moment. A milestone, and we want YOU there. On behalf of all Area V Top Teens, I look forward to welcoming you to Cleveland where together, we will continue Cultivating Our Collective Power, safe travels.

With Appreciation and Anticipation,

Lady Kemberley H. Jones

Area V Top Teens of America Advisor
areavttaadvisor5@gmail.com



Welcome to the 51st Annual Area V Leadership Conference!

Teen Jordin McKinney, TTA President Greater Cleveland Chapter

Greetings Area V Top Ladies, Top Teens, and Lords!

My name is Jordin McKinney, and I serve as the Greater Cleveland TTA Chapter President. I am delighted to welcome you to the 51st Area V Leadership Conference held in Cleveland, Ohio, at the Holiday Inn Event and Conference Center from March 26-29, 2026. Our conference theme is **“Cultivating Our Collective Power: Strengthening Chapters, Elevating Teens, Impacting Communities.”** Hosted by the Greater Cleveland Chapter, we are proud to host this year’s conference in the vibrant city of Cleveland, Ohio a place defined by strength, resilience, and an unwavering spirit of progress. From its thriving arts and cultural institutions, its engaging sports teams, and bold community initiatives that showcase the city’s historic commitment to innovation, Cleveland stands as a living example of what can happen when people unite with purpose and vision. It is a city that welcomes you with open arms and reminds every visitor of the impact that collective strength can create.

As Top Teens, we recognize that meaningful change happens when we work together nurturing strong chapters, empowering Top Teens, and expanding our impact throughout the communities we serve.

Throughout this four-day experience, Teens will explore leadership workshops, enrichment activities, competitive events, and service-focused sessions designed to strengthen confidence, build character, and enhance teamwork. Top Ladies will engage in opportunities for collaboration, mentorship, and strategic planning that support our mission and elevate the TTA program. Together, these shared experiences create a powerful legacy of growth and unity.

Whether you are attending for the first time or returning to celebrate another year of excellence, we encourage you to fully embrace the spirit of this conference. Connect with new friends, learn boldly, lead proudly, and celebrate the achievements of both our Teens and our Ladies. Each of you play a vital role in the continued success of Area V.

Thank you for your commitment to service, leadership, and community impact. We are honored to have you join us this year. **Welcome to the 51st Area V Leadership Conference let’s continue cultivating our collective power!**

In TTA spirit and service,

**Teen Jordin McKinney,
TTA President Greater Cleveland Chapter**

HOST NIGHT

ROARING TWENTIES!

Step back in time and bring the elegance and flair of the Roaring 20's to life!
All teens are invited to participate by dressing in stylish, age-appropriate attire inspired by the 1920s .

ATTIRE GUIDELINES

- All attire must be teen-appropriate
- No cigarette or alcohol-themed props
- No overly short, tight, or revealing outfits

LADIES (Teen Girls)

- Knee-length flapper-style dresses
- Fringe, sequins, or beaded accents
- Feathered or jeweled headbands
 - Long pearl necklaces
- Mary Jane or T-strap shoes

GENTLEMEN (Teen Boys)

- Dress pants with suspenders
 - Button-down shirt
 - Vest or blazer
- Bow tie or classic tie
- Newsboy or flat cap
- Dress shoes or loafers

LET'S BRING THE GLAMOUR!

Dress sharp, have fun, and celebrate the style and sophistication of the Roaring 20's era!

DOROTHY ALLEN CHIMNEY



Area V Top Teen Chapters will compete and shine as they honor the legacy, excellence, and impact of Black history.

"Participation is Our Foundation as Leaders of Tomorrow"

Top Teens of America



Sponsored by Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.



Blue and Silver Ball & Awards Program

Saturday, March 28, 2026
Holiday Inn & Event Center
6001 Rockside Road
Independence, Ohio 44131
7:30 p.m.

Teen Noah Guilford, National TTA President
Lady Crystal Pittman, National TTA Director
Lady Eddie Lee Marsh, National President and CEO

Teen Brandon Gary Jr., Area V TTA President
Lady Rosalyn Bilberry, Area V TTA Assistant Advisor
Lady Kemberley H. Jones, Area V TTA Advisor

Lady Velda A. Hunter, National Area V Director

CONFERENCE ATTIRE

THURSDAY MARCH 26, 2026,

COMMUNITY NIGHT PROGRAM/HOST NIGHT-
Roaring 20's (See Attire Guidelines Attached)

FRIDAY MARCH 27, 2026

PRAYER BREAKFAST & MEMORIAL PROGRAM

Females - Uninterrupted white dress/skirt suit, white shoes, hosiery (white/flesh)
Males - Dark suit or dark dress pants and blazer, white shirt, dark tie, dark dress shoes

AREA V LADIES, TEENS, and LORDS OUTING

All Teens - Khakis, TTA Chapter t-shirt, sneakers

ALL PLENARY SESSIONS | WORKSHOPS

Business Attire

Females - Appropriate business dress, skirt suit or pantsuit or dress pants, blouse or polo shirt
Males - Dark suit or dark dress pants and blazer, white shirt or polo shirt
*No jeans or sneakers to be worn at any event, unless specifically stated.

SATURDAY MARCH 28, 2026,

Pink & Blue Experience Luncheon

Shades of pink or shades of blue

Females - dress/skirt suit, hosiery-flesh

Males - Dark suit or dark dress pants and blazer, white/blue shirt, dark or blue tie, dark dress shoes

Blue and Silver Ball

Females - Blue or Silver Floor Length Gowns

(No Exposed Midriff, Excessive Splits, Bare Back or Shoulders)

Males - Dark suit or tuxedo, white shirt, dark tie or bowtie

Mr./Miss TTA - Refer to Mr./Miss TTA Attire Guidelines

GAME NIGHT | TTA MELTDOWN

All Teens - Khakis, TTA Chapter t-shirt, sneakers

SUNDAY MARCH 29, 2025

A Collective Worship Experience- TTA Wrap Up Time

All Teens - Khakis, TTA Chapter t-shirt, sneakers



"CULTIVATING OUR COLLECTIVE POWER, STRENGTHENING CHAPTERS, ELEVATING TEENS, IMPACTING COMMUNITIES"

EARLY REGISTRATION

ENDS FEBRUARY 1, 2026

TOP LADIES

\$325

ALLEvents and
TLOD Tote Bag

TOP TEENS

\$200 *

ALL Events,
TTA Tote Bag,
TTA Outing

TLOD INDUCTEES

\$250 *

ALL Events,
TLOD Tote Bag

LORDS

\$225

Public Events
Lords Suite,
Lords Outing

FINAL REGISTRATION

FEBRUARY 2 - 15, 2026

TOP LADIES

\$375

ALLEvents and
TLOD Tote Bag

TOP TEENS

\$200 *

ALL Events,
TTA Tote Bag,
TTA Outing

TLOD INDUCTEES

\$250 *

ALL Events,
TLOD Tote Bag

LORDS

\$225

Public Events
Lords Suite,
Lords Outing

GUEST TICKETS: Prayer Breakfast \$50, Community Night \$60, Blue & Silver Ball \$75

FINAL REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 15, 2026

REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE AT www.TLODinc.org

Top Ladies—Credit/Debit card payments only

*Chapter Checks accepted only for TTA & TLOD Inductees

Refund Policy:

Full refund (minus fees) will be paid up to Feb 1st.
Half registration (minus fees) will be paid up to March 1st..
Send a written request to Lady Gina Harp-King at
gharpking@aol.com

*Make Chapter Checks Payable to:

AreaV TLOD andMailto:
Lady Gina Harp-King
POBox 36328
Indianapolis, IN 46236



TENTATIVE AGENDA

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM | Registration: ConferenceCheckIn |
| 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM | Tri-C Service Project |
| 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM | Joint Opening Session Parade of Chapters/Community Recognition Program - Rooted & Radiant: A Longevity Tribute |
| 9:00 PM - 11:00 PM | Greater Cleveland Chapter Host Night |
| 11:00 PM - 12:00 PM | New Member Rehearsal, TTA & TLOD Choir Rehearsal, Mr. & MissTopTeenRehearsal |

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Conference Check In |
| 8:00 AM - 8:45 AM | Induction |
| 8:45 AM-9:00AM | VIP Holding Room |
| 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM | Prayer Breakfast / Memorial Service |
| 11:15 AM - 11:30 AM | TLOD & TTA Credentialing |
| 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM | TLOD & TTA Plenary Session I |
| 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM | Lunch on Your Own |
| 2:30 PM - 2:45 PM | TLOD & TTA Credentialing |
| 2:45 PM - 4:45 PM | TLOD & TTA Plenary Session II |
| 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Area V Night at the Movies - Triple Six Eight |
| 9:15 PM - 11:15 PM | Orchids & Kaftans - The Love Language of Sisterhood |
| 9:15 PM - Midnight | TTA Game Night |



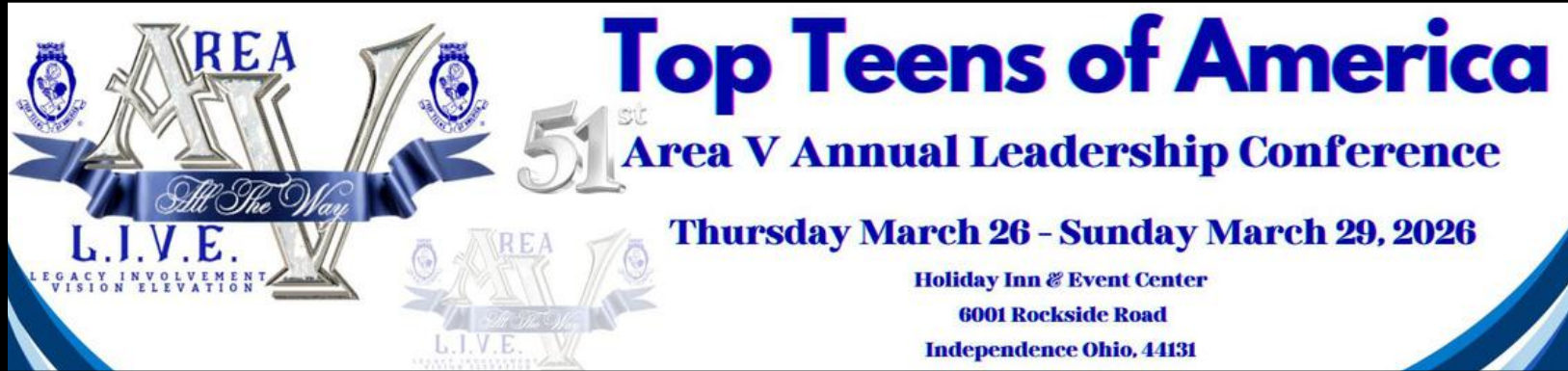
TENTATIVE AGENDA

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM | Breakfast on your own |
| 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM | Workshops |
| 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM | TTA Competition and Literary Cafe |
| 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM | Pink & Blue Experience Luncheon |
| 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM | TLOD & TTA Credentialing |
| 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM | TLOD & TTA Plenary Session III |
| 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM | |
| 10:00 PM - Midnight | Blue & Silver Awards Program TTA Meltdown / TLOD Afterglow |

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM | Continental Breakfast |
| 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM | "Rooted in Faith, Rising in Power" A Collective Worship Experience |



SUBMISSION LINKS **DUE BY FEBRUARY 15, 2026,**

[Chapter TTA Delegates](#)

[High School Graduating Seniors](#)

[Mr. & Miss Top Teen](#)

[Mentor/Mentee Spotlight](#)

[Most Outstanding Top Teen](#)

[Top Teen Talent Show](#)

[Lady Dorothy Allen Chimney Black History Bowl](#)

[TTA T-Shirt Competition](#)

[Program of Work TTA Scrapbook](#)

[Lady Augusta Cash-Lathem Award](#)

[Lady Ruth Payne-Smith Award](#)

[Area V Scholarships 2026](#)

[Lady Gwendolyn Ivory Robinson NOVA Award](#)

**FORMS TO COMPLETE BY
FEBRUARY 15, 2026**

EMAIL TO TTA ADVISOR AT
areavttaadvisor5@gmail.com

BRING HARD COPIES TO AREA V
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Code of Ethics

Medical Information

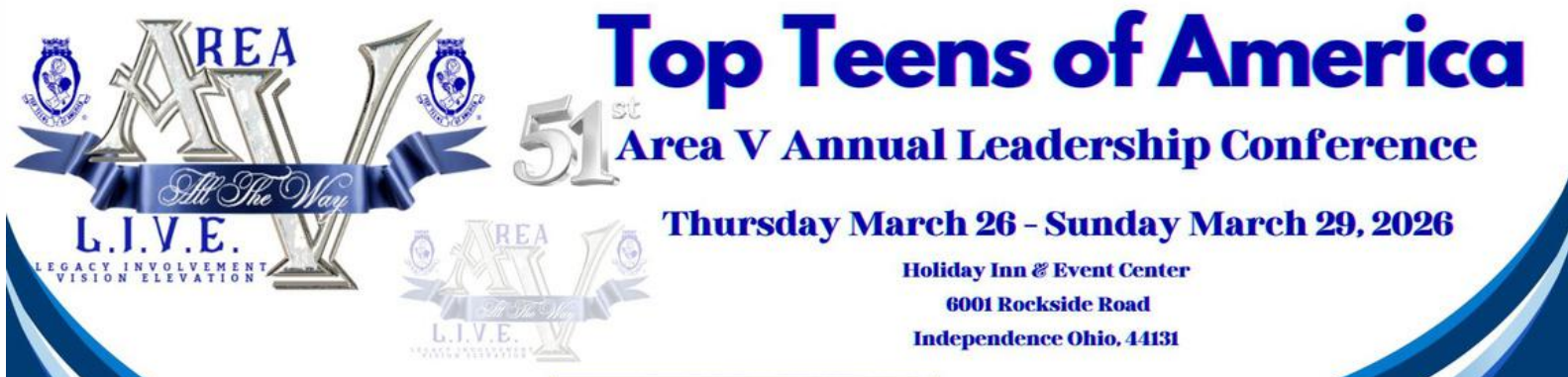
**Medical Treatment
Authorization Form**

Parent Permission Form

School Leave Request Form

Photograph/Video Release Form

Hotel Rooming List



Top Teen Chapter Delegate Form

Chapter _____ TTA Advisor's Name _____

E-mail Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Delegates to the 50th Area V Leadership Conference are based on recorded active chapter members as December 31, 2025, for fiscal year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026. Delegates shall be apportioned by chapter as follows: ten to twenty (10-20) members - two (2) delegates, plus 1 delegate for each additional fifteen (15) and may have 1 alternate for each delegate.
(See Standard Operating Procedure Manual).

Number of Financial Members: _____ Number of Chapter Delegates: ____

| Chapter Delegate Name | Alternate Chapter Delegate |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

form by February 15, 2026,



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Independence Ohio, 44131

2025 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING SENIORS FORM

Each chapter will submit the names(s) of each graduating senior along with the name of their high school and future plans. Please write yes or no if Teen is attending the Area V Conference

| TEEN'S FULL NAME | HIGH SCHOOL | PROSPECTIVE COLLEGE/ TECHNICAL SCHOOL | ATTENDING AREA V CONFERENCE? YES OR NO |
|---------------------|-------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Complete google form by February 15, 2026



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Mr. Top Teen Presentation Form

Chapter: _____

Mr. Top Teen Name: _____

Grade: ____ School: _____

Parent(s) Name(s): _____

Church Name/Activity(ies):

Community Activity(ies):

School Activity(ies)/Honors/Awards:

Top Teen Participation _____

Local: _____

Area: National: _____

What specific contributions have you made to further the TLOD Projects?

Other Organizations:

****Attire: Black Tuxedo or dark suit, white shirt, matching bow-tie.****

Complete google form by February 15, 2026



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Miss Top Teen Presentation Form

Chapter: _____

Miss Top Teen Name: _____

Grade: ____ School: _____

Parent(s) Name(s): _____

Church Name/Activity(ies):

Community Activity(ies):

School Activity(ies)/Honors/Awards:

Top Teen Participation _____

Local: _____

Area: National: _____

What specific contributions have you made to further the TLOD Projects?

Other Organizations:

****Attire: A simple white floor length dress, elbow length gloves,
single strand or white pearls, single pearl earrings , and white pump heels.****

Complete google form by February 15, 2026



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Each chapter participating in the t-shirt competition is to design and bring their own chapter t-shirts. The shirts can be t-shirts or polo's (long or short sleeve). All TTA Chapters and TTA Advisors are required to have a t-shirt as the teens will wear these t-shirts with khaki pants to the TTA outing.

Chapter registration is required to participate in the t-shirt competition.

Shirts will be judged Friday March 27, 2026 at the TTA Competitions.

Criteria for Top Teens T-Shirt Design Competition:

- Mention the five (5) Thrust (10 points)

- Color of T-Shirt:

- Royal Blue, Silver, or Grey (10 points)

- Creativity of the design (60 points)

- Include Chapter Name (10 points)

- Include TTA Emblem (5 points)

- Include TTA Motto: (5 points)



Complete google form by February 15, 2026



Top Teens of America

51st Area V Annual Leadership Conference

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Area V TOP TEEN TALENT SHOW

The Performing Arts competition encourages an appreciation for dance, dramatics/poetry/spoken word, and music (instrumental or vocal). It affirms the various techniques for specialized performances and recognizes that it preserves a culture and its forms of expression.

TTA TALENT SHOW REQUIREMENTS:

Top Teens must meet the eligibility guidelines as follows:

- Top Teen entries are eligible for National competition for the Syn-Lod year only.
- Eligible entrants must be an active, financial Top Teen for at least one year at the time of entry at Area and be in a Chapter that is in good standing at the Area and National levels.
- Eligible entrants must be the First Place Winner from the Area Conference held during Fiscal Year Two of the Two-Year Program Period.
- Categories from which to choose: (1) Dance; (2) Spoken Work/Dramatization/Poetry; (3) Music – Vocal; (4) Music – Instrumental; and (5) Virtual Arts (new category). Each category will be judged separately, for a total of five (5) First Place Winners.
- All performances must be “live.” Videos will NOT be accepted.
- **The Talent Show/Performing Arts Application google form* must be completed and submitted by the February 15, 2026**
- Each performance will be allowed 3-5 minutes. Longer or shorter performances will be penalized.
 - NO profanity or vulgar lyrics in any vocal performance or dance; NO nudity allowed, attire respectable and tasteful; NO alcohol, tobacco, or drug advertisements shown on any clothing; NO pyrotechnics, open flames or any other dangerous additions.
- Teens are responsible for their own easel stands for and other items for visual displays

Complete google form by February 15, 2026



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TOP TEENS AMERICA **Chapter Program of Work (POW) Scrapbook**

CHAPTER: _____ CHAPTER ADVISOR: _____

CHAPTER ADVISOR'S EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

CHAPTER SCRAPBOOK ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

First Place Winner from the Area Conference held during Fiscal Year Two of the Two-Year Program Period.

The Landscape or Portrait Scrapbook must not be larger than 12 x 12 or 11 x 14 and a maximum of 75 pages.

Scrapbook Cover must display Chapter Name and Fiscal Year Program Period.

Scrapbook must contain a Table of Contents and all pages within the scrapbook must be numbered.

Eligible TTA Chapters must be financial and in good standing for the Two-Year Program Period.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

I. Uniqueness of Cover (5 Points)

Qualities: Color coordination, creativity, shape, lettering

II. Organization and Neatness of Layout (5 Points)

Qualities: Accurate table of contents, artistic design, balance (free of clutter), attractive, creative, printing/writing, color coordination.

III. National TTA Program Activities (30 Points)

Implementation of the Top Teens of America Program, namely M.O.M.E.N.T.U.M., the TTA/TLOD Mentoring Program, March of Dimes Walk America, Healthy Choices Youth Conference, Sickle Cell Projects and Literacy Projects.

IV. Involvement in TLOD Program of Work (20 Points)

A variety of programs organized and supervised by TLOD, nationally and locally, in these thrust areas: Senior Citizens, Status of Women, Community Beautification, and Community Partnerships.

V. Involvement in TLOD Special Local and National Projects (20 Points)

A variety of projects organized and supervised by TLOD to support the National Projects, i.e. NAACP, NCNW, UNCF, Literacy and Sickle Cell Initiative.

VI. Other Activities within TTA (20 Points)

Support of other activities within TTA, including Area Conference attendance and participation, local inductions, scholarship and awards participation, civic and social community involvement.

Must be received by February 15, 2026,



LITERARY CAFE

Ladies, Lords and Teens are encouraged to participate in one or more of three (3) ways:

SPOKEN WORD PRESENTATION

Read your original, positive, empowering and creatively inspiring Poetry selection to an appreciative audience of Ladies, Lords and Teens. Impact others with your expressive thoughts and vision.

CHAPTER LITERACY DISPLAY

All Area V Chapters should display local chapter Literacy programs and activities at this event

PUBLISHED AUTHOR DISPLAY

Published Area V Authors and Journalists may display their work.

Must be received by February 15, 2026.





Top Teens of America

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Area V Most Outstanding Teen Award

Top Teens must meet the eligibility guidelines as follows:

- Top Teen entries are eligible for National competition for the Syn-Lod year only.
- Eligible entrants must be an active, financial Top Teen for at least two (2) years at the time of entry at Area and be in a Chapter that is in good standing at the Area and National levels.
- Eligible entrants must be First Place Winner from the Area Conference held during Fiscal Year Two of the Two Year Program Period.
- Scrapbook must contain a Table of Contents and all pages within the Scrapbook must be numbered.
- Scrapbook must contain an Introduction Sheet which includes the entrant's Name, Chapter, Area, City and State.
 - Scrapbook must include the completed and signed Application Form* which must include all indicated signatures. The Application Form (TTA Director's Outstanding Top Teen of America Application Form) is included in this registration packet.
- Scrapbook material must document entrant's involvement in TTA, and community activities as reflected in news articles, copies of programs, certificates, captioned photos, etc. Documentation material may include up to the most recent consecutive five-year period.
 - Two (2) signed letters of recommendation must be included with the scrapbook.
- The Landscape or Portrait Scrapbook must not be larger than 12 x 12 or 11 x 14 and a maximum of 50 pages. Scrapbook Cover must display Entrant's Name and Fiscal Year Two of the Two-Year Program Period.

Must be received by February 15, 2026



The Lady Augusta Cash Latham Award

Area V will present financial awards to winners in the Area Essay and Speakers Tournament. Teens please make sure to follow ALL Guidelines and meet the deadlines to be eligible to win.

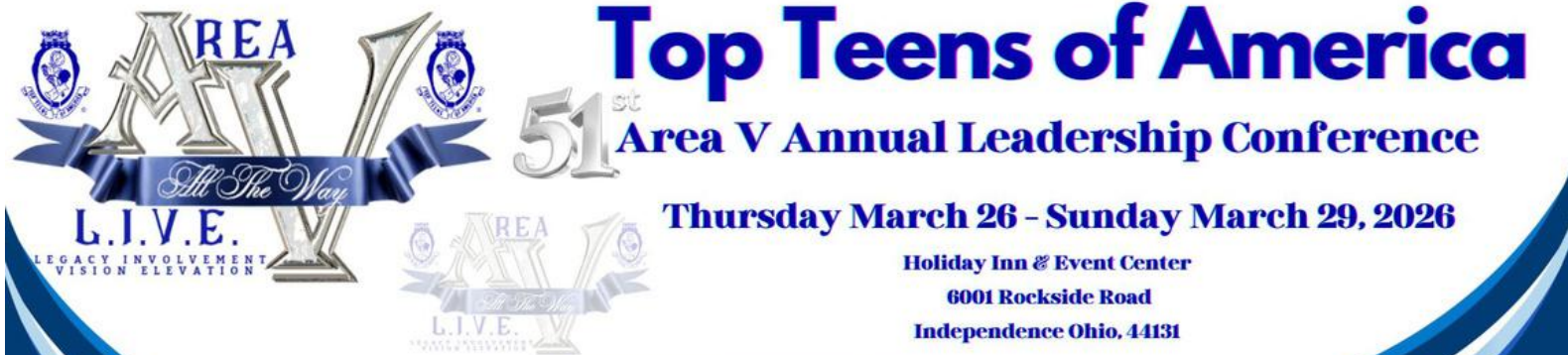
First Place Winner \$150.00 Second Place Winner \$100.00 Third Place Winner \$50.00

Top Teens must meet the eligibility guidelines as follows:

- Top Teen entries are eligible for National competition for the Syn-Lod year only.
- Eligible entrants must be an active, financial Top Teen for at least one year at the time of entry at Area and be in a Chapter that is in good standing at the Area and National levels.
- Topics must be selected from the “2025-2027 National Topics for TTA Essay & Speakers Tournament” for the Two-Year Program Period. The National Topics are included in this registration packet.
 - The essay must be 600 to 1000 words on the selected essay topic.*
 - Essay must be typewritten and on 8½ x 11 size paper.
 - Triple space between the title and the first line of text.
 - Essay must be double-spaced and use a five-space paragraph indentation.
- There should be a one-inch margin at the top and bottom and on the left and right sides of each page.
- The Essay must have a cover sheet that has the Entrant’s Name, Chapter Name, Area, and Essay Topic.*
 - There should be a bibliography to document research sources.

Must be received by February 15, 2026,

Winners will be announced at the Blue and Silver Ball & Awards Program on Saturday March 28, 2026.



THE LADY RUTH PAYNE SMITH AWARD TTA SPEAKER TOURNAMENT

First Place Winner \$150.00 Second Place Winner \$100.00 Third Place Winner \$50.00

Top Teens must meet the eligibility guidelines as follows:

- Eligible entrants must be an active, financial Top Teen for at least one year at the time of entry at Area and be in a Chapter that is in good standing at the Area and National levels.
- Topics must be selected from the 2025-2027 National TTA Topics for the Two-Year Program Period (listed on next page).
- Speakers must compose their own speeches with proper credit. It is permissible and encouraged for speakers to use quotations from reputable sources.
 - Each speaker provides a copy of his/her Speech
- The Speech manuscript must have a Cover Sheet that has the Entrant's Name, Chapter Name, Area, and Speech Topic.
- SPEECHES MUST BE MEMORIZED. Speakers must deliver from memory, the oration to a panel of judges. Speakers may NOT use any notes, view or read from any screen, tablet or any electronic device or they will be disqualified.
- Each speaker will be allowed 3-5 minutes. Longer or shorter speeches will be penalized.
 - Speakers will be judged on the basis of content/composition (50%) and presentation/delivery (50%).
- A copy of the speech manuscript will be sent to the National Awards Committee with the Area Director's Report.

Must be received by February 15, 2026,

Winners will be announced at the Blue and Silver Ball on Saturday March 28, 2026.

2025-2027 National TTA Topics

Augusta Cash Latham Essay Questions

Ruth Payne Smith Speakers' Tournament Questions

“Civil War or Civil Engagement?” Civil War is defined as a severe and protracted form of conflict within a nation. Civil Engagement is defined as working to improve the community through individual and collective actions, both political and non-political. Which would you prefer? Civil War or Civil Engagement to address the current conflict, violence, and polarization occurring in the United States, and why?

“Can We Be the Change We Want to See?” The First Amendment protects Freedom of Speech: Is it really freedom for everyone or for a select few? Compare the conditions of Freedom of Speech during the Civil Rights Era to current times in America. How do you feel about the current condition of America versus the Civil Rights Era? Has it changed Freedom of Speech? Discuss the impact of the current administration's actions in the following areas: birthright citizenship, human rights of both documented and undocumented immigrants, or any other areas. Are you concerned with your Freedom of Speech being violated as a black American in this era?

“The Power of Civil Discourse in a Divided World.” *Civil discourse* means engaging in respectful conversation, listening to understand rather than winning, and finding common ground even when we disagree. In today's world, people often disagree—about politics, culture, social issues, and even everyday choices. How has our *dialogue* with one another about these differences changed our community? Explain why civil discourse is important in your generation. Consider how respectful dialogue can help solve problems, build stronger relationships, or create positive changes in your school, community, or the world.

“The Rise of Artificial Intelligence: Friend, Foe, or Future Partner?” Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning are transforming the way we learn, work, and live. From self-driving cars and virtual tutors to art-generating software and robot assistants, AI is quickly becoming part of our daily world. Have these innovations and technological advances impacted our creativity, ethics, and the role of humans? Explore what the emergence of artificial intelligence and machine learning means for your generation.

“Mind Matters: Building a Generation that Prioritizes Mental Health.” Reflect on the importance of mental health awareness and advocacy among youth and senior citizens. Discuss how individuals and communities can work together to promote emotional resilience. How have social media and other influences had an impact on traditional relationships, families, and neighborhoods?

THE LADY GWENDOLYN IVORY ROBINSON NOVA AWARD



THE LADY GWENDOLYN IVORY ROBINSON NOVA AWARD

FOR AREA V MIDDLE SCHOOL TOP TEENS IN INDIANA, MICHIGAN, OHIO and PENNSYLVANIA

PURPOSE: The purpose of the NOVA AWARD is to provide a grant to students for enrichment opportunities.

NOVA is defined as a star that becomes much brighter. It is hoped that with this award, the selected “student stars” will become brighter and more engaged in the educational process. The range of opportunities is very wide and may include camps, workshops, medical expenses, books, technical equipment, etc.

OBJECTIVE:

During her tenure as the National Area V Director, Lady Gwendolyn Ivory Robinson initiated a partnership with Dianne Dunkelman, Founder and CEO of CLEVER CRAZES FOR KIDS to provide a grant to Area V grades K-8 Top Teens for actively participating in an online STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) enrichment website whose content is aligned with National Common Core Standards per age appropriate and grade band specific content and integrated lesson plans.

This year three NOVA AWARDS will be presented to Area V Middle School Top Teens from Indiana, Michigan Ohio and Pennsylvania at the 2025 Area V Leadership Conferences for individual student enrichment opportunities. **The recipients will receive \$150 award for 1st place, \$75 for 2nd Place and \$50 for 3rd Place.**

ELIGIBILITY:

Must be a participant of Clever Crazes for Kids (Visit Free Website at clevercrazes.com) Middle school student in the 7th or 8th grade.

Must be a member of Top Teens of America. Must be a U.S. citizen.

Recommended by: Counselor, Top Teen Advisor

APPLICATION:

All deadlines must be observed.

Applications must be received by February 15, 2026.

Student should state how grant will be used.

Student should state why he/she should receive the grant.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION: Complete application, including recommendations, must be received by February 15, 2026,

THE LADY GWENDOLYN IVORY ROBINSON NOVA AWARD

NOVA AWARD APPLICATION 2025

REQUIRED: Must be a participant of Clevercrazes.com to apply for this grant.
Application and all supporting data must be received by February 15, 2026,

Fill in completely by typing or printing clearly and return to your Top Teens Advisor.

Full Name_____

Chapter_____

Phone ()_____

Address_____

City_____County_____State_____Zip_____

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Teen Month of birth | Day | Year | Age | Sex | Place of Birth |

Parent or Guardian Full Name _____Relationship to Teen_____

Address_____

City_____County_____State_____Zip_____

Teen Middle or Junior High School Attending: _____

Schoo/Activities/Honors/Awards_____

Describe your participation in any school and/or community service involvement not including TTA

List Hobbies/Talents _____

Years of Service:_____

THE LADY GWENDOLYN IVORY ROBINSON NOVA AWARD

Local Chapter

Area Level

National Level

Describe how you will use this award

Describe why you deserve to win this award?

RECOMMENDATION LETTERS REQUIRED: Provide two people (not related) to write letters for you, describing your needs, community service involvement, character, etc.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____County_____State_____Zip_____

ATTACH A RECOMMENDATION LETTER FROM YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR OR PRINCIPAL NOTING CHARACTER, PERSONALITY TRAITS, NEEDS, SPECIAL TALENTS ETC.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Top Teens Chapter Advisor Signature

Date



SCHOLARSHIPS



Greetings Top Ladies, and Top Teens!

The purpose of the Area V Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., established Scholarship Program, is to provide deserving Area V Top Teen high school seniors with additional opportunities to continue studies above the high school level. These scholarships are a part of the organization's Educational Program. Teens must apply online for the scholarships using the links included in this packet. All sections must be completed.

- Scholarship recipients are chosen on the basis of their school records, character, leadership abilities and community involvement. Top Teen winners will be selected by the Scholarship Committee of judges who represent the standards of T.L.O.D. organizations.

The following recommendations are given to assist the Top Teens in their preparation of the Scholarship application. Please remember to complete the application neatly and fully. The judges will consider only completed applications received by the stated deadline. If information is being submitted under a separate cover, please indicate that on your application. All information required must be received by **February 15, 2026**.

Remember to review your application prior to submitting it for consideration. Make sure you are responsive to the questions asked on the application. **DO NOT SUBMIT ESSAYS** other than the one listed under the Scholarship

Essay Guidelines.

Please include your name, and chapter in the heading.

Please do not forget to include the official Chapter name on your application. The page that follows provides more details about the scholarships and the information needed to complete the scholarship application

Lady Margo Green
Area V Scholarship Chair

Lady Velda A. Hunter
National Area V Director

SCHOLARSHIPS



- **Lady Angie McLeod Scholarship \$1500.**
- **Lady Ethel Kuykendall Scholarship \$1000.**
- **Lady Florence J. Smith Scholarship \$500**



Qualifications and eligibility

- * A member of "Top Teens of America" for at least two years
 - * A citizen of the United States
- * A senior in public, parochial or private secondary school who plans to enroll in a college, university, or technical school in the fall of the year of graduation.
- * A student who has selected an accredited school for continuing learning and meets all entrance requirements of the selected school.
- * Possess at least a 3.0 grade point average and will graduate by June 2026.
Has filed a completed copy of an application form by February 15, 2026.
- * Must have met all financial obligations

Three (3) letters of recommendation: A. Top Lady, B. Counselor, Teacher, or Principal C. Non-Relative

HOW TO APPLY

- The applicant must be a Top Teen member and obtain a scholarship application link from his/her Top Teen Advisor.
- All items on the application form must be completed and all the necessary materials filed with the Top Teens' Advisor.

The scholarship winners are notified at the 51st Annual Area V Leadership Conference
Saturday, March 28, 2026, at the Blue and Silver Ball.



51st

Top Teens of America

Area V Annual Leadership Conference

Thursday March 26 - Sunday March 29, 2026

Holiday Inn & Event Center

6001 Rockside Road

Independence Ohio, 44131

"Participation is our Foundation as Leaders of Tomorrow"

Lady Carolyn Utz Award

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Each chapter registered for the Area V Conference is eligible to win the Carolyn Utz Award with the exception of the Host Chapter.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- ✦ The Carolyn Utz Award will be presented to the chapter with the highest attendance at the Area V Conference based on the percentage of chapter membership.
- ✦ The totals will be calculated during the conference.
- ✦ One award will be presented to the chapter with the highest percentage of Top Teens in attendance.
- ✦ The Carolyn Utz Award will be presented during the Blue and Silver Ball.
- ✦ The host chapter is not eligible for this award.