$100,000 in Scholarships Available
ENTRY DEADLINE – Saturday, November 1, 2026

SCHEDULE

APPLICATION

Application Deadline	November 1, 2026 Confirmation Email will provide you with the Essay prompt
Essay	November 7, 2026 - Essay topic resent to participants via email November 15, 2026 - Essay deadline

SEMI-FINALISTS (40 Students)

Semi-Finalists Notified (Semi-Finalists are required to go on to the Dale Carnegie Training)	**December 23, 2026**
Dale Carnegie Training (Top 20 male and top 20 females)	**Saturday, January 16, 2027 – 8:30AM-4:30PM Sunday, January 17, 2027 – 8:30AM-4:30PM Monday, January 18, 2027 – 8:30AM-4:30PM**
Semi-Finalist Contestant Dale Interviews	**Monday, January 18, 2027 – 10:00AM-4:00PM**
Carnegie Graduation/Dinner	**Monday, January 18, 2027 – 6:00PM**
Finalists Notified	**By Friday, January 22, 2027**

FINALISTS – LEADERSHIP PROGRAM SCHOLARS (20 Students)

The top 20 Scholars will continue in semester long training of the 2027 Leadership Program. See schedule on page 4. Please note the minimum points required and mandatory events attendance required to complete the Leadership Program and qualify for scholarship.

AWARDS

All participants that successfully complete the Buc Days Port of Corpus Christi Leadership Program will receive an equal scholarship amount to be used at the college of their choice.

Buc Days Port of Corpus Christi Leadership Top Male	$10,000 Scholarship
Buc Days Port of Corpus Christi Leadership Top Female	$10,000 Scholarship
Buc Days Port of Corpus Christi Leadership Runner Up Male	$6,500 Scholarship
Buc Days Port of Corpus Christi Leadership Runner Up Female	$6,500 Scholarship
Buc Days Port of Corpus Christi Leadership Program Scholars	$4,000 Scholarship
Leo Rios Community Service Scholarship	$1,000 Scholarship
2 Karen Atwood Memorial Scholarships	$1,000 Scholarship each

SPECIAL RULES

1. ELIGIBILITY: Participation is limited to legal Texas residents of Aransas, Bee, Duval, Goliad, Jim Wells, Kennedy, Kleberg, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio and Victoria Counties who are currently attending an accredited Texas high school or homeschool. Participants must be in their senior year of high school.

Applicants must have a cumulative 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 GPA scale.

In order to participate in this program, the following behavior is expected:

a) Treat all people and property with respect, courtesy, consideration, and compassion.
b) Respond to all emails regarding attendance according to requested deadlines.
c) Obey laws and rules as an obligation of being a good citizen and accept responsibility for the treatment and care for other people, the program facilities and/or equipment.
d) The use of alcohol or illegal substance (or being under the influence of such) while working with or participating in any part of the program is prohibited.
e) Refrain from any activity that would reflect poorly upon the program or the Buccaneer Commission.

The Buccaneer Commission reserves the right to interpret or amend these rules and requirements at any time at its discretion and to settle and determine all disputes, questions or matters regarding, arising from or incident to the Leadership Program, including but not limited to termination from the program and revocation of any scholarship.

Immediate family members of Buccaneer Commissioners and staff are not eligible for the Program. The Buccaneer Commission Governing Board reserves the right to extend or withhold an invitation for entry to any Participant.

The Buccaneer Commission, Inc. does not advocate, support, or practice discrimination based on race, religion, age, national origin, language, sex, sexual orientation, or mental or physical handicap or any other personal attribute protected by law, except where affirmative action may be required to redress individual or social handicaps.

Information including GPA, Date of Birth, level in school, and gender will be confirmed by the official transcript.

2. ENTRY: The online entry application is available at www.BucDays.com. **Deadline is November 1, 2026. Transcripts must be submitted by this same deadline and must be uploaded with the application.**

3. COMPETITION: Semi-Finalists for the Buc Days Port of Corpus Christi Leadership Program will be selected through a competition consisting of the Application (which includes Financial Need, Academic Performance Activities, Extra - Curricular Activities, Leadership, Employment, Volunteer and Community Service and Recognition Awards) and Essay. Application scores includes a possible five points for *first generation college, community college or trade school students. The top 20 male and top 20 female with the highest scores will participate in the Dale Carnegie Course. These 40 semi-finalists must participate in person in the Dale Carnegie course January 16, 2027 through January 18, 2027. Dale Carnegie Training & Graduation will NOT be rescheduled for individual contestants with conflicting obligations.

Application	182 Points
Essay	100 Points
Total possible Points:	**282 Points**

*We define a first-generation college student as a student both of whose parents did not complete a bachelor's degree, associated degree, community college or trade school or in the case of students who live with and are supported by only one parent, a student whose only such parent did not complete a bachelor's degree, associated degree, community college or trade school.

Essay Competition: Each semi-finalist must submit a typed essay of 750-1000 words. Essay prompt will be provided upon submission of your application within a confirmation email when your application has been received. The essay prompt will be resent in an email on November 6, 2026.

Essay Deadline: Completed Essays must be uploaded electronically to the Buc Days website no later than November 15, 2026, using the link provided by the application confirmation email.

Essay Judging: Essays will be critiqued upon the following criteria:

- Content and Overall Effect- 40%
- Organization- 20%
- Vocabulary- 20%
- Mechanics- 20%
  Total possible score: 100%

4. SCHOLAR JUDGING: Semi-Finalists: Each semi-finalist will be judged on their Dale Carnegie Course performance and their Interview. A maximum total of 150 points may be awarded to each contestant. Finalists will be determined by the following criteria:

Dale Carnegie Course: Each qualifying semi-finalist must complete this 3-day program. Scholars will be judged on their participation to learn to communicate, lead, and to deliver high impact presentations for virtual and in-person audiences.

Interview/Public Speaking Competition: Each qualifying semi-finalist must prepare and present a 2–3-minute speech. The speech content should include information about the student that is not listed in their academic record. Information such as awards received, hobbies, community service, etc. will already be provided to the judges. Also, the student should include why they should be considered for the Leadership Program. Interviews must be done in person. Other candidates will not be present during the public speaking/interview.

Interview/Public Speaking Judging: Interviews will take place Monday, January 18, 2027, from 10:00AM – 4:00PM Each semi-finalist will field questions from a panel of judges and be scored based on:

- Why you should be considered for the Leadership Program - 40%
- Posture - 10%
- Pacing - 10%
- Volume - 10%
- Eye Contact - 10%
- Participation in school and community activities and/or jobs - 20%

Dale Carnegie Course	50 Points
Interview/Public Speaking	100 Points
Total possible Score:	**150 Points**

2027 Buc Days Port of Corpus Christi Leadership Program Events Schedule

Please note that this schedule is subject to change:

Type	Activity	Day	Date (2027)	Time	Attendance points
Dale Carnegie	Leadership Training 1 – Henry Garrett Center *Required	SAT	JAN 16	8:30AM – 4:30PM	**See below (Mandatory)
Dale Carnegie	Leadership Training 2 – Henry Garrett Center *Required	SUN	JAN 17	8:30AM – 4:30PM	**See below (Mandatory)
Dale Carnegie	Leadership Training 3 – Portland Community Center *Required	MON	JAN 18	8:30AM – 4:30PM	**See below (Mandatory)
Dale Carnegie	Leadership Interviews (in tandem with Class 3) – Portland Community Center *Required	MON	JAN 18	10:00AM-4:00PM	graduation/ completion of training
Admin	Dale Carnegie Graduation, Professional Photo Shoot & Dinner – Portland Community Center *Required	MON	JAN 18	DC Graduation Dinner: 6:00PM	(Mandatory) 10
Community	Industry Tour – Port of Corpus Christi	THURS	JAN 28	4:00PM – 8:00PM	(Mandatory) 10
Community	Industry Tour - CCAD, NAS-CC	THURS	FEB 11	8:00AM – 3:00PM	10
Buc Days	Buc Days 4-H Clays Shoot	SAT	FEB 20	7:00AM – 5:00PM	10
Service	Metro Ministries	THURS	FEB 25	4:30PM – 7:30PM	10
Community	Industry Tour – Gulf Coast Growth Ventures / Gulf Coast Lithium Refinery-Tesla	THURS	MAR 18	10:00AM – 1:30PM	10
Admin	Youth Odyssey Ropes	SAT	Mar 27	8:00AM – 2:00PM	10
Buc Days	Buc Days Marketing Promotions Prep	THURS	April 1	5:30PM	10
Buc Days	All Volunteer Meeting *Required	THURS	APR 8	6:00PM-7:30PM	(Mandatory) 10
Admin	Final Project Presentations *Required	SAT or SUN	APR 10 or APR 11	9:00AM – 12:00PM	(Mandatory) 10
Buc Days	Sunrise Stampede	SAT	April 17	9:00AM – 2:00PM	10
Buc Days	Scholar Recognition / Rally Night Parade	SAT	APR 24	4:30PM	10
Buc Days	Dunking of the Mayor / Carnival	THURS	APR 29	3:00PM	10
Buc Days	PBR - *Required	FRI-SAT	APR 30-MAY 1	5:30PM – 9:30PM	(Mandatory) 10
Buc Days	Rodeo Corpus Christi – Select at Least One Night *Required	TUES-FRI	MAY 4-MAY 7	5:00PM – 9:30PM	(Mandatory) 10
Buc Days	Special Awards Ceremony – Rodeo Corpus Christi VIP *Required	SAT	MAY 8	4:30PM-5:00PM	(Mandatory) 10
Buc Days	Rodeo Corpus Christi Appearance Announce Top Scholars *Required	SAT	MAY 8	5:00PM – 9:30PM	(Mandatory) 10
Mentorship	Session 1 - Arranged by mentee and mentor Buccaneer Commissioner/Industry Leader ***Required				(Mandatory) 10
Mentorship	Session 2 - Arranged by mentee and mentor Buccaneer Commissioner/Industry Leader ***Required				(Mandatory) 10
Mentorship	Session 3 - Arranged by mentee and mentor Buccaneer Commissioner/Industry Leader ***Required				(Mandatory) 10
				Total Possible Points	**200**

*** Minimum requirement of 150 attendance points needed to fulfill program requirements.**

****To complete the Dale Carnegie Program, you must participate in and complete all 3 sessions.**

***** Each scholar and Mentor will meet at least 3 times during the program.**

5. SCHOLARS: The two recipients of the Dale Carnegie Highest Award for Achievement will go into the Buc Days Leadership Program with the final 18 spots determined by total possible points, to comprise of the top 10 males and top 10 females to continue in the Buc Days Port of Corpus Christi Leadership Program.

6. SCHOLAR REQUIREMENTS: Once a contestant has been selected as a scholar, they will be part of a prestigious leadership training program for their final semester of high school. The scholarship award winners listed under AWARDS will be selected from this group.

7. ATTENDENCE REQUIREMENT: Scholars will be required to attend multiple leadership training courses, mentoring sessions and Buc Days Events. Please note the events where attendance is mandatory/required. Points will be given for each event attended. Attendance at every event offered will result in a maximum score of 200 attendance points. **A minimum of 150 attendance points is needed, and attendance to mandatory events is required to fulfill program requirements.**

8. MENTORSHIP PROGRAM: Each scholar will be paired with a Buccaneer Commissioner(s) or Leader in their field as a mentor, based on career interest. Each scholar and Mentor will meet at least 3 times during the program. The mentor will provide the mentee with advice for college preparation, provide an in-depth look into their career and workplace and work on skill-building components selected by the mentee. Each mentoring session will count as 10 points towards event attendance points.

All Mentoring sessions will be arranged by the (scholar)
Session 1 - Introductions, mentor background, plan next sessions
Session 2 - Workplace tour/shadowing
Session 3 - Final discussion and closing remarks

9. DRESSCODE: The Buccaneer Commission will provide all scholars with a Buc Days Leadership Program Polo to be used while attending Leadership Program Events and Buc Days Events and a western shirt for the rodeo. A pirate costume will be provided by the Buccaneer Commission to be used for the Night Parade and the Children's Parade. Scholars will participate in a professional photoshoot. Digital downloads of photos will be provided to scholars for resumes and portfolio purposes.

10. FINAL PROJECT: Each scholar will create a 3–5-minute PowerPoint Presentation based on their experience in the Buc Days Port of Corpus Christi Leadership Program and the outcome of their Mentorship Program participation. Scholars will show their presentations to a panel of judges on Saturday, April 10, 2027, or Sunday, April 11, 2027. Mentors will be invited to final presentations. The panel of judges will evaluate the students on final presentation and participation throughout the program to determine the Top Male and Top Female. Final Project Presentations must be done in person.

11. ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS: The top male and top female scholar with the highest overall scores in program participation, engagement and project presentation will receive $10,000 scholarship and named top male and female scholar. The male and female runner ups will receive $6,500. All remaining scholars are guaranteed $4,000 upon successful completion of the Buc Days Port of Corpus Christi Leadership Program.

The Leo Rios Community Service Scholarship of $1,000 will be awarded to the scholar that demonstrates the most commitment and passion to community service. Volunteer involvement listed on the scholar's application (50%) and participation in Buc Days Volunteer Opportunities (50%) will determine the scholarship recipient.

The Karen Atwood Memorial Scholarship of $1,000 will be awarded to two scholars that received the Dale Carnegie Highest Award of Achievement.

12. SCHOLARSHIPS: Scholars are eligible to receive scholarships, provided they meet the Rules and Requirements portion of the Buccaneer Commission Scholarship Policies. Scholars will be required to submit a signed agreement that they have read and understood the requirements of the Buc Days Port of Corpus Christi Leadership Program.

Requirements for all Finalists:
Recipients must begin use of Buccaneer Commission Scholarship within six months of graduation from high school.

- Recipients must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 hours per semester during the Fall semester. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Recipient must submit the following documents to the Buccaneer Commission at the address below by August 1, 2027:
    - Completed Buccaneer Commission Scholarship Contract
    - Thank you letter to Buccaneer Commission
    - Class Schedule for Fall 2027 Semester, substantiating semester hour requirements (i.e. class schedule with total hour reflected)
    - The Scholarship is valued as defined above in Awards. Upon meeting all requirements for scholarship disbursement, scholarships will be paid directly to the College or University designated by the recipient.
    - Failure to fully comply with Buccaneer Commission Scholarship Policies will result in forfeiture of scholarship funds.
    - Should a recipient not attend college, or fail to maintain academic standards or college enrollment, the balance of the scholarship will be forfeited to the Buccaneer Commission Scholarship Program.
    - Any exceptions to these rules must be requested in writing by the Recipient and approved in writing by the Buccaneer Commission.
    - The Buccaneer Commission reserves the right to interpret or amend these rules and requirements at any time at its discretion and to settle and determine all disputes, questions or matters regarding, arising from or incident to the Scholarship Program, including but not limited to revocation of a scholarship.

13. SCHOLARSHIP MATCHING OPPORTUNITIES: Should a scholar choose to attend a college or University that has a Matching Agreement with Buc Days (Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, and Del Mar College) and meet admission standards of such university, a scholarship match will be provided by the institution. These agreements will be published as available.

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