**The following is a guide to help you write your own press release. Personalize it how you want. Here are a few tips about sending a press release.**

* Email is preferred. Copy the text into the body of the email (not an attachment) and make the subject something like: Local teens present …… at ….,
* If you fax the press release, do not use a cover letter. All of your contact information will be on the press release.
* You can attach a picture (jpeg is best). If you attach a picture, add information at the bottom of the press release to say that a photo is attached. Then add School Name and names of individuals left to right (specific top row, etc.)
* You may want to send this to your local paper as well as to your school/district media relations person.

**For immediate release:** Date

 Media Contacts:

 Terry Hamm, Texas Association of Student Councils

 512-443-2100 ext. 233 **terry@tassp.org**

**Student Councils Contribute Over 12 Million Dollars Through Community Service**

The Texas Association of Student Councils (TASC) (add your district or your school here) reports that its member schools (or its members) contributed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(You can use $7.50 an hour or minimum wage to calculate monetary value of hours worked.)* to the public good through donations of time, goods, and money during the 2018-2019 school year. With just about one-third of TASC’s 1399-member schools reporting, the value of community service reported by TASC schools in donated monies, goods, and hours volunteered totaled over 12 million dollars

These numbers reflect only the community service completed by council members. The countless hours spent in their schools planning events that engage, inform, and motivate their fellow students as well as show appreciation to school faculties are not included.

While funding for student activities continues to be cut across the state, student council members with the volunteer assistance of their advisors raise the funds necessary to conduct projects and support their schools and communities.

“As student councils members across the state of Texas cross the stage to pick up their diplomas, more and more will be moving on to college and careers with a commitment to public service, civic participation, and the knowledge that they make a difference in their communities and their lives through service to others and participation in the democratic process," said Terry Hamm, Director of Texas Association of Student Councils. “I am constantly amazed at the contributions made by high school student council members under the guidance of exceptional Student Council advisors. Congratulations to these councils and their students for their dedication to service and commitment to improving their school, their communities, and their world. These students embody TASC’s dedication to student voice, student engagement, and student leadership.” Substitute a quote from an advisor here if wished.

On campuses across the state, thousands of TASC members are engaged in innovative projects to meet local needs, national, and international needs using the skills learned in student council. They have donated blood, goods, and money. They have cleaned parks, roadways, and beaches. They have weatherized buildings, hosted senior citizen proms, educated peers about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, dating violence, and bullying. They have led leadership workshops for peers and younger students and reached out to victims of natural disasters. Insert your projects here instead of this list.

These young people develop proven skills in team building, problem solving, project planning, and decision making. Through their co-curricular activities, student council members serve their communities while strengthening their academic and civic skills. “I enjoy our community service activities because \_\_\_\_,”says, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, student at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ school