

Texas A&M Phi Lambda Upsilon announces the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual READY, SET, GO! 5K

## Running for Education And Delivering Youths' Science Equipment To Generate Opportunity

*Saturday November 9th, 9:00 am; Texas A&M University*

The Texas A&M University Beta Beta Chapter of the Phi Lambda Upsilon (PLU) Chemistry Honor Society is pleased to announce their READY, SET, GO! Mini-Grants Program. Grants will be awarded on a need/merit basis to support innovative, student-based educational projects that enhance learning with the objective of improving student achievement. Projects should have the ability of being replicated or adapted by other schools. Projects addressing science, technology, engineering and/or mathematics (STEM) will be considered.

**Who may apply:** The program is open to educators who teach in schools in the Brazos county service territory.

Grants up to a maximum of \$1000 each will be awarded. A minimum of 2 grants will be awarded for the 2024-2025 school year directly from the PLU budget with more being granted dependent on the funds raised during the READY, SET, GO! 5K Fun-Run. Funds may be applied to equipment, materials and field trips that would not normally be provided by the school or school district, per the grant guidelines.

Funding will be provided to the school or school district for distribution to the teacher recipient, who will use the money in accordance with the approved budget. The school and/or school district are encouraged to continue the project after this source of external funding expires. Project funds must be spent on designated items within the project year.

Members of the READY, SET, GO! Mini-Grants Review Committee will review all applications based on the following criteria:

- a creative, innovative solution to a stated problem or issue as it relates to STEM education
- a positive contribution to achieving higher student achievement and motivating students to learn
- clearly defined and valid objectives and outcomes that are realistic in terms of what is expected to be accomplished.
- activities must be well-defined, specific, and directly related to project goals
- appropriate to grade level and includes direct student involvement
- budget must be itemized and reasonable
- plans for evaluating the project must be realistic and quantifiable

All publicity released, information brochures, printed programs and public reports pertaining to the READY, SET, GO! grant must include acknowledgment of Phi Lambda Upsilon: Beta Beta Chapter support.

Grant applications will be accepted until the end of the calendar year by email, mail (postmarked by 12/31/2024), or in person on race day. Announcement of grant winners will be made by January 2025. If you have any questions or need more information/applications, please e-mail P.L.U. Beta Beta Chapter at: [plu@chem.tamu.edu](mailto:plu@chem.tamu.edu)

In addition, a bonus \$200 grant will be given to the educator who garners the most participants at this year's READY, SET, GO! 5K on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am. Race participants will be invited to state whom they are running for, and the teacher with the largest tally will be granted this additional award. Participants in the race under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. A grant proposal is still required, and the recipient will still be eligible for the \$1000 grant. For more information about the READY, SET, GO! 5K, visit <http://www.chem.tamu.edu/plu/index.php>.

# Preparing a Winning Project Proposal

Funding will be provided for projects which enrich the standard curriculum or school activities in ways that directly affect students' day-to-day school experiences. Proposals should encourage creativity and increase student motivation to learn. Each proposal should address high priority needs at the school and show that funding does not supplant school district responsibilities. Project must be grade-specific. Proposals will be ranked and granted according to scientific merit and need-based criteria.

**Priority will be given to projects designed to do one or more of the following:**

- develop new teaching strategies and methodologies that motivate students to learn about science, technology, engineering, or mathematics education
- improve basic learning skills
- help underachieving students reach their potential
- involve the community in the improvement of education
- provide meaningful and measurable parental involvement activities

**Considerations:**

- grants cannot be used to supplant school and/or school district responsibilities
- grants cannot be used for food and/or refreshments
- proposals for field trips will be considered only if they are an integral, vital component of a larger strategy and is NO MORE THAN 25% of the total budget
- outside consultants and experts will be supported only if the expenditure is a necessary part of the overall objective of the project and is NO MORE THAN 25% of the total budget
- each teacher may submit only one proposal per academic year

The Project Description section should define the need for the project and what you hope to accomplish. Tell about your anticipated results and what competencies you will address. Describe your target population and the reasons why your project will meet its needs. Explain how your project is different in creativity and innovation as compared to other projects. Activities that relate to the project goals should be fully detailed.

Budget items should be related to activities. Include specific information such as kinds of materials and equipment needed, sources of supply, and costs. See Considerations above as it relates to equipment, field trips, outside consultants and experts.