

**The TSA Youth Ambassadors have been hard at work spreading awareness of Tourette Syndrome in their communities across the country. Here are a few highlights from their recent activities and events.**



**Chris Maus** gave a presentation before the high school boys Sunday school class at the Greenwell Springs Baptist Church in Greenwell, LA. This was Chris's debut YA presentation and he impressed the 35 youths plus adults in his audience with his maturity and public speaking skills. One of the adults asked if Chris were headed toward a career in politics!

**Carolyn Eitzen**, of the TSA Michigan Chapter, appeared on local TV in a feature on TS that was shown on the 7a.m. and 4p.m. news broadcasts. Carolyn made a positive impression on the television audience and people with TS from nearby cities got in touch after seeing the segment. Carolyn also made a presentation at Leland Public Middle School where she spoke to 60 students and five adults.

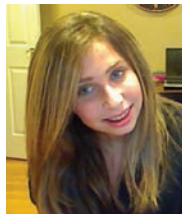
**Tyler Morris**, of the TSA Texas Chapter, made presentations to five 7th grade health classes in Sugar Land. He involved all the kids by inviting them to discuss what they had inherited from their parents, as they had been studying genetics, medical conditions and the human body in class.



**Daniel Van Hise**, of the TSA New York Hudson Valley Chapter, gave three presentations to 7th grade health classes at the Felix Festa Middle School in West Nyack, New York. Dan's presentation impressed the students and he led a lively discussion that included the TS episode of "South Park," bullying and difficulty taking tests while ticcing.

**Emily Fleischman**, of the TSA New Jersey Chapter, met with the Principal, Assistant Principal, Nurse and Supervisor of Special Education and Student Support Services at the Oradell Public School. The small, but attentive audience learned a great deal from Emily.

**Tanner Hutchinson**, of the TSA Ohio Chapter, gave an interview that appeared in the Community Press of Cincinnati. He also made a presentation at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital for neurology department nurses, doctors and staff.



**Peter Sarac**, of Elkton, MD of the TSA Greater Washington Chapter, spoke before an audience of 20 friends and family, explaining why he makes noises and twitches.

**Zach Pezzillo**, of the Hawaii/Northern California TSA Chapter, made a very special presentation to the Department of Education for Maui County in Pu'unene.

Zach spoke for an hour about his life with TS before an audience of 60 School Counselors and Resource Teachers in Maui and via video teleconference in Molokai and Lanai.

## Next TSA Youth Ambassador Leadership Training: March 29 – 31, 2011

The next TSA Youth Ambassador Leadership Training will be held in Washington, DC at the Capitol Skyline Hotel in Washington, DC, from March 29 through March 31. This is the first time that TSA's Youth Ambassador Training will be held within the District of Columbia. The location offers participants a true Washington, DC experience and will be convenient for visits to congressional offices.

Two person teams of a teen (13–17 years old) and an adult (usually a parent or guardian) will attend the training. Each teen will be trained to give polished, informative presentations that raise awareness of TS. They will have opportunities to practice public speaking and responding to audience questions. The teams will also learn how to organize presentation appointments and negotiate with school personnel. The teams will participate in "Trip to the Hill" visits with legislators and their staff, where they will educate lawmakers about TS as it relates to current public policy issues.

Every TSA Chapter is invited to select a YA team to attend this training. The YA Leadership Trainings were the brainstorm of Diane and Darryl Mallah.

Thanks to funding from the Mallahs, in memory of Diane's mother Eleanor Wachter, many costs associated with the Youth Ambassador Leadership Training will be covered by national TSA.

Additional teams sent by Chapters may attend the Leadership Training without TSA subsidy. They will be responsible for all expenses (including a registration fee to cover the training program and meals, reduced-rate lodging, and transportation). TSA Chapters are strongly encouraged to cover some or all expenses of their Youth Ambassador teams. TSA also thanks the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc., the Million Dollar Round Table Foundation/Robert Belvedere, and The Ballard Family Foundation/Karen, Alan and Michael Hart, for their contributions to this program. ■