

# PATRIOT

# PRESS

## MARCHING TO THE DRUMBEAT OF FREEDOM

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### A LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER

Dear Patriots:

The Torch of Freedom Foundation was formed by leaders working in and around public policy who became increasingly aware that the majority of our current leaders do not have a strong foundation or a working understanding of the principles our nation was founded upon. Our experience proved that raising a new generation of well prepared and skilled leaders is more likely than educating those already in office.

From 1776 until today, there have always been individuals who have been willing to be perceived as radical, always been those who have stood for what they believed in the face of overwhelming odds. We owe our liberty to those who have gone before - Patriots.

We, in turn, must pass this "torch of freedom", by instilling the principles of liberty to others, and equipping our future leaders with a foundation and working knowledge of public policy.

This vision of passing the torch of freedom to the next generation birthed the concept of Patriot Academy six years ago. We have been extremely pleased with the result. Our dream has come true as we have seen young patriots passionately and effectively articulating the major issues of our day...much like the Men of Issachar, you and your colleagues will learn to understand the times AND know what to do! We look forward to your participation in Patriot Academy 2008 at the Texas Capitol next month.

In the next few weeks, you will be hearing from the mentor to whom you will be assigned during the Academy. Additionally, you will receive a packet of material to read and your rooming and committee assignments. If you have any questions, feel free to ask your mentor or email Kathi Seay at [kathi.seay@gmail.com](mailto:kathi.seay@gmail.com).

I encourage you to spend this next month studying the material we send, researching public policy issues and preparing for debate on the bills that your fellow Patriots will bring forward. Most importantly, come to Patriot Academy ready to interact and learn. I look forward to seeing you July 16.

Sincerely,

Rick Green  
Founder and President of the Torch of Freedom Foundation

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## PATRIOT ACADEMY 2008

Traveling from as far away as California and Florida, New York and Massachusetts, 42 Patriots have answered the call to participate in the 6th annual Patriot Academy in Austin, Texas on the week of July 16, 2008.

41 students between the ages of 16 and 25 will spend four days in the Texas Capitol learning the mechanics of government during a mock legislative session. Participants have already begun to file legislation covering issues ranging from mandating judicial restraint to requiring the teaching of intelligent design in schools.

In addition to the heated policy discussions, early candidate filings for officers of the Patriot Academy 2009 indicate that campaigning will likely consume any free time participants thought they might have at this year's event.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Tuition due **NOW!!!!**
- File your bills
- Notify us if you are running for Governor, Lt. Governor or Speaker
- Keep reading the newsletter for updates

## HINTS FROM AN ALUMNUS

The pace of the first Patriot Academy I attended really surprised me. The presenters explained that the intent was to make the experience as close to the real thing as possible.

Apparently, getting up early, working late, walking around and just barely having time to think is pretty much normal doing an actual session.

Here are some things I wish I had known ahead of time:

First, wear comfortable shoes. There is a lot of walking between buildings on the Capitol Campus. And, when you are on the House Floor, you are running all around. If your feet hurt it is a distraction.

Second, make contacts before you get here. There are a lot of really cool people attending PA. If you get to know them by email before you get here, it is easier to put faces to names and to interact. Besides, you never know whose help you might need.

Third, there is no food or water allowed in the rooms at the Capitol. Watch for chances to get bottled water or use water fountains to stay hydrated.