



## **MISSION**

**The MISSION of the San Antonio Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. is to preserve the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and to motivate youth toward excellence.**

## **PURPOSE**

**The PURPOSE of the organization is to contribute to historical research and documentation of the achievements of Tuskegee Airmen who served our country; motivate youth, ages 8-18 (grades 3-12), to seek aviation and aerospace careers; and to inspire local youth and college students to outstanding achievement and leadership through career and educational orientation and development in aerospace activities. It is through this mission that children and youth are afforded the opportunity to explore science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) as an integrated field in aviation. Careers in the field of aviation, which require university/college degrees as well as those that do not, are to be explored by engaging in conversations with presenters, hands-on field experiences, and observations of practices. Experiences are provided according to age-appropriateness of the participants. Additionally, the participants are given the opportunity to gain knowledge of the Tuskegee Airmen and appreciation for their legacy of determination, perseverance, intelligence, and self-control that they demonstrated in order to develop the skills needed to achieve excellence while they navigated through overwhelming obstacles.**

## ORGANIZATION'S PROGRAM/SERVICES

**The San Antonio Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. (SAC-TAI) has a Youth Program, which is multidimensional: STEM-A, AFJROTC, Speaker's Bureau, and Education Assistance Awards.**

**The Science, Technology, Engineering, Math Program with emphasis in Aviation (STEM-A)** encourages young men and women (ages 8-17) to explore STEM through aviation and its career opportunities. Student activities of engagement after acceptance into the program are: (a) Introduction and orientation with safety briefing; (b) presentations on maintenance, medical, weather, operations, and education experience; (c) hands-on experiences through simulations and (d) field trips – museums, airports, air force base operations. Constant checks for understanding and an exchange in dialogue is a standard part of the program design to ensure student involvement.

**The Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC) Awards program** promotes academic excellence and builds awareness of the Tuskegee Airmen and their contributions as students are nominated to receive the TAI-sponsored award at area high schools that have an AFJROTC Program. Two students at each of the 15 identified high schools receive a Chapter coin, gift card, TAI information (flyer or pamphlet handout), and will get to meet a SAC-TAI representative and an attending Original Tuskegee Airman. These students must meet the following criteria: attain a grade of "B" or better in their Aerospace Sciences class; be in good academic standing; actively participate in cadet corps activities; and participate in at least 50% of all unit service programs.

**The Speaker's Bureau** contributes to young men and women's awareness of the roles of aviation, and African-American contributions in particular, in human achievement and history by responding to invitations to present at respective classes in public and private schools at appropriate developmental levels. Tuskegee Airmen values are related to the students' own lives. Handouts may be distributed by an Original Tuskegee Airman. The historical Double-V film is made available for viewing to augment the message for students.

**SAC-TAI's Education Assistance Awards Program** in partnership with the Randolph Air Force Base 99<sup>th</sup> Flying Training Squadron and the Lackland Air Force Base 323<sup>rd</sup> training squadron, provide annual financial assistance for deserving high school graduating seniors who demonstrate a desire to seek a postsecondary education, especially with emphases in the STEM fields. Students also have the opportunity to receive an award from the Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship Foundation as this is competition at the national level.

Finally, the SAC-TAI membership completes at least two service projects per year, usually preparing and serving dinner to the wounded warriors and their families in the San Antonio area at Ft. Sam Houston and Lackland bases.

**Name of Program/Event:** San Antonio Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. **STEM-A Program**

**Description of Program/Event:** In an effort to preserve the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and to motivate youth in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math careers, the STEM-A Program is redesigned to operate in this capacity. Students from the San Antonio area will be given the opportunity to apply for participation in this STEM-A program, which will consist of 8-10 sessions in 2018 and beyond. The program objectives are to provide multiple opportunities for youth to: (1) Develop an awareness of the impact and contributions of pioneering minority aviators; (2) Understand the roles of aviation affecting everyday life; (3) Gain exposure to the fields of aviation, technology, and careers in the aerospace industry as a catalyst for advanced and continued education; and (4) Gain an appreciation of the story and lessons of the Tuskegee Airmen and their legacy of determination, perseverance, and patience.

Partnerships with local organizations, air fields/airports and air force bases (JBSARandolph, Kelly, & Lackland) will be used to conduct the program objectives. The following are activities that are designed to support the objectives.

- a. Make contact with area schools, churches, organizations that serve the targeted children/youth and disseminate information (including applications) regarding the STEM-A Program. Contact the local AFJROTC Program commanders in participating high schools in surrounding areas to alert them of the opportunities for the extension of their program to include hands-on experiences and ability to learn through presentations about the history of aviation and career choices.

- b. STEM-A Program design (PHASE 1 & PHASE 2)

**PHASE 1**

1. Orientation/Introduction – explain the purpose of the program to parents and participants. Give overview program requirements and activities.
2. Session 1 – Lecture/discussion on history of flight w/video; field trip (99<sup>th</sup> FTS); review & assessment
3. Session 2 – Lecture/discussion on weather (instrumentation & computers) and its effect on flight; field trip to San Antonio Airport & tower; review & assessment
4. Session 3 – Lecture/discussion on maintenance; field trip to Kelly Field (ex.: Boeing Aerospace Support); review & assessment
5. Session 4 – Tower tour at Randolph AFB & simulation experience; review & assessment
6. Session 5 – Lecture/discussion on careers in aviation (medical, teaching, mechanical, air traffic controller, pilot, engineering, etc.); review & assessment
7. Session 6 – Field trip to Lackland to Airmen’s Heritage Museum and to Stinson Field Museum; review & assessment

8. Session 7 – Lecture/discussion on academic expectations in preparation for various careers; Continuation of careers in aviation with guest lectures/discussions
9. Session 8 – Stinson Field w/flight experience. The students will be given the opportunity to experience flight with an experienced pilot at the culmination of Phase 1 of the program.

**PHASE 2** of the program would entail actual flight training courses from an independent vendor. Liability will be assumed by the vendor and students. Parents/guardians must also complete a consent form for their students. Training will include required ground school and up to 20 hours of actual flight time. Students must be committed to completing the flight program without interruption, as continuity of training is extremely important. The plan for completion of flight training is three to six weeks after training begins. The cost of ground and flight training, (approximately \$3000.00), will be paid by *To Be Determined*, with a nominal (nonrefundable) portion of the sum being paid by each student. The Youth coordinator will monitor student progress during flight training. Acceptable progress is required for PHASE 2 retention.