

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What is HOBY?**

**A:** Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) is a non-profit organization committed to seek out, recognize and develop leadership potential commencing with high school sophomores. Founded in Los Angeles, California in 1958 by actor Hugh O’Brian, HOBY implements its purpose in three ways: by providing interactive opportunities for critical thinking; by promoting democracy and America’s incentive system; and by encouraging social responsibility among individuals and participating corporations. Each spring 73 HOBY leadership seminars bring together 8,000 selected students from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, and Mexico. Over 380,000 students have attended HOBY since 1958!

**Q: What is the purpose of the state leadership seminar?**

**A:** The seminar supports the primary objectives of Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership: to encourage and assist members of this formative age group in their quest for self-identification and development; to interface these potential leaders with recognized leaders in business, industry, government, science, education, and the professions through give and take workshops; to stimulate opportunities for these young people to demonstrate their leadership abilities when they return home for betterment of community and country.

**Q: How are students selected to attend a HOBY Leadership Seminar?**

**A:** Each October, the National Association of Secondary School Principals sends nomination materials to all 22,500 public and private high schools in the United States. Each school selects an outstanding sophomore, based on their leadership potential, to represent their school at their state seminar. Since only one student is selected, it is an honor to be recognized as a leader among peers.

**Q: What do students receive by attending their state leadership seminar?**

**A:** Seminar attendees, or HOBY Ambassadors as they are called, through interactive question-and-answer sessions with local civic and corporate leaders, are engaged in stimulating discussions and are encouraged “how to think, not what to think.” Topics such as leadership and motivation, education, entrepreneurship, volunteerism, media, goal setting and project implementation help build the leadership development of these students. Ambassadors will also participate in a service learning community project. Throughout the seminar, students build new friendships and networks for the future.

**Q: What are the benefits after attending a HOBY Leadership Seminar?**

**A:** Many Ambassadors return home with a new vitality, a greater sense of purpose, and a new set of resources that they can use to make their schools and communities better places in which to live. With this new enthusiasm, HOBY Ambassadors can create a ripple effect of social responsibility in their communities. Ambassadors are asked to become part of HOBY’s commitment to the “President’s Summit for America’s Future”. By undertaking a community service project(s) involving at least 100 hours, they have the opportunity to join 8,000 other HOBY Ambassadors in making a difference in your school, community, place of worship, or other “environment”. Alumni can continue their involvement by attending Alumni functions, volunteering for the annual leadership seminar, or teaching at a one-day Community Leadership Workshop (CLEW) held in local communities. HOBY seminar attendance can be added to resumes and college applications. Alumni are eligible to receive Ambassador Leadership

Scholarships from various colleges and universities to help fund higher education through graduate school.

**Q: Who pays for the seminar?**

**A:** The school is asked to pay a registration fee of \$150 to HOBY International (our offices in Los Angeles). Sometimes this fee is paid by the parent. The all-volunteer Maryland committee raises the state seminar expenses for room & board, copies & postage, and program supplies (approximately \$39,000) from generous sponsorships from the private sector, service organizations, and individuals. Women's Clubs, Jaycees, Kiwanis, and Optimists financially sponsor individual schools to the seminar.

**Q: Who is Carol Applegate?**

**A:** Carol is the Maryland Leadership Seminar's chairperson who leads an all-volunteer committee. She has volunteered with HOBY for 25 years in many positions in both the state and the national organization. She is a wife and mother of two grown children and is employed by Adell Plastics, Inc. as their Training Coordinator.

**Q: What kind of supervision is provided at the leadership seminar?**

**A:** The seminar is chaperoned by qualified adult male and female facilitators who stay at the facility 24 hours a day. Most facilitators were HOBY Ambassadors and now volunteer their time. Groups of 8-10 Ambassadors are organized into small teams led by an adult facilitator. Recent HOBY Alumni are assigned as assistants or in the Operations Office.

**Q: If necessary, how may I contact HOBY during the Seminar weekend?**

**A:** Parents and friends are discouraged from calling students during the seminar due to the confusion created when meetings are interrupted. In case of emergency, parents or guardians may call the University Security (301) 447-5357 ext 2. Also, Aaron Bernstein, Vice Chair, cell (301) 318-2256 or Carol Applegate, cell (410) 746-0150 can be reached. Ambassadors can bring cell phones but they must be turned off during seminar sessions which can last past 10 pm. The dorms do not have phones.

**Q: What transportation arrangements have been made?**

**A:** We are unable to provide transportation to and from the seminar. It is the parent's responsibility.

**Q: What if I am unable to attend the seminar?**

**A:** If circumstances arise that prevent you from attending, we want to give another student from your school the opportunity to attend. Please notify the person at your school who selected you, **and** call Carol Applegate at home (410) 426-8287 or cell (410) 746-0150.

**Q: What is the Parents' Lunch?**

**A:** The Sunday 12:30 – 1:50 pm lunch in the Patriot Hall, Cogan Student Union is an opportunity for your family to find out just what HOBY is about, meet other parents and ask questions. Your host, Anne Yakaitis, is a HOBY volunteer and mother of two HOBY Alumni students. There is a fee to attend this meal and a registration form is in this packet. It is not a mandatory event.

**Q: At what time does the seminar start and end?**

**A:** Registration is from 8:00 – 9:00 am Friday May 23 and Closing Ceremony ends at 3:30 pm Sunday May 25, but it usually takes some time for the ambassadors to walk back to the dorm, collect their luggage, hand in keys and say good bye to their new friends.

**Q: Where do my Parents meet me on Sunday?**

**A:** They will join you at the Closing Ceremonies from 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm in the Knott Auditorium. All parents are encouraged to attend. Or you can meet back at the dorm around 3:45 pm.