

## NFHS Student Leadership Conference Scheduled for July 17 - 20 in Indianapolis

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Elliot Hopkins

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (July 15, 2008) - The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) will host its fifth National Student Leadership Conference July 17 -20 at the downtown Hilton in Indianapolis, Indiana.

About 300 student and adult delegates from 28 states, Canada and Israel will attend the conference, which has been made possible through a grant from T-Mobile USA, Inc. Other sponsors include Gatorade and Nike.

"We're extremely pleased with T-Mobile's continued support of this conference," said Elliot Hopkins, NFHS director of educational services and coordinator of the Student Leadership Conference. "We embrace the fact that they see value in young people and want to partner in this outstanding initiative. T-Mobile is not only supporting the conference, but they will also be involved as participants in the activities we provide."

The conference will include large- and small-group instruction in three breakout sessions, which will be headed by college-aged and adult facilitators from across the country. Leaders of the breakout sessions will offer advice on issues teens are dealing with in today's society, such as respect, positive values, perspective, sportsmanship, teamwork, healthy lifestyles, community service and self-evaluation.

In addition to group discussion, students will choose among several speakers during two sessions on Friday. Some of the topics include NCAA Eligibility/National Clearinghouse Information, Careers in Athletics, Money Management, Communications for the Next Century, Virtual Team Play Online and Successful Tips for the ACT/SAT Standardized Tests. Representatives from The Princeton Review, Fifth Third Bank, St. Mary's of the Woods College, among others, will speak.

The T-Mobile Stick Together Student Lounge will provide students with a place to relax and interact with others during downtime. The lounge will have televisions, phones, computers, reading material and board games for the students' use. An online diary will be updated daily, giving the public a firsthand account of what the students are experiencing as they spend the weekend in Indianapolis, and posted on [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org).

On Saturday, July 19, the students will work to beautify and renovate Oscar Charleston Park and Washington Park for the T-Mobile Huddle Up Community Service Project. This event has become one of the most-anticipated events of the conference. The opening ceremony will be held at 12:30 p.m. Saturday in Oscar Charleston Park.

Students will have the option of participating in an ecumenical worship service from 8 to 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 20, followed by a skit put on by the facilitators. The conference will

conclude with the Closing General Session from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., after which students will say farewell to new friends and depart for their home states.

The goal of the NFHS Student Leadership Conference is to encourage students to return to their respective schools and communities with new and improved leadership skills and work with their adult counterparts to help develop a plan for their school and make a positive and significant impact on the community.

This press release was written by Steve Appelhans, a summer intern in the NFHS publications/communications department and a senior at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, majoring in sport management.

About the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) The NFHS, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the national leadership organization for high school sports and fine arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and fine arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The NFHS sets direction for the future by building awareness and support, improving the participation experience, establishing consistent standards and rules for competition, and helping those who oversee high school sports and activities. The NFHS writes playing rules for 17 sports for boys and girls at the high school level.

Through its 50 member state associations and the District of Columbia, the NFHS reaches more than 18,500 high schools and 11 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7 million in high school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; produces publications for high school coaches, officials and athletic directors; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, spirit coaches, speech and debate coaches and music adjudicators; and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities. For more information, visit the NFHS Web site at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org).

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