***TEXAS ORANGE JACKETS***

***“FOR TEXAS I WILL”***

**FALL 2023 NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

***Letter from the Vice Presidents of Membership***

Dear Applicant:

In 1923, Texas Orange Jackets was founded as a women’s honorary service organization devoted to serving the University of Texas at Austin, the greater Austin, Texas community, and to supporting the initiatives and goals of individual members within the OJ community.

100 years later, we remain the official hosts of the University and the oldest service organization on campus for women and non-binary folks from all backgrounds, majors, cultures, and identities. Named for our burnt orange vests, you can spot Orange Jackets across campus participating in a variety of university and community-wide events as we work together to realize our core tenets: **service, leadership, scholarship, and community.** It fills us with immense joy and honor that you are interested in becoming a member of our Texas Orange Jackets community at the University of Texas at Austin, and we hope to meet you soon.

A number of notable OJ service initiatives have been implemented, including: the Barbara Jordan Statue Project, PrOJect Safety, Pennies Make Sense: a Financial Literacy Program, Food SecureUT, *We Rose* booklets which document six remarkable Longhorn women's journeys, Project Period, Tap In To Women's Health and most recently, “For Texas,” which seeks to raise awareness of UT's racial and gendered history, as well as the progress made and the work yet to be done. Additionally, to demonstrate our commitment to making UT more welcoming for those with underrepresented identities, the Texas Orange Jackets: For Texas You Will Women’s Empowerment Scholarship was established. Each year, this scholarship served to provide financial assistance to one incoming freshman self-identified woman at UT. Orange Jackets’ primary partner philanthropies is The Settlement Home for Children, which provides shelter for abused and neglected girls. This is only a short glimpse into what Orange Jackets has accomplished throughout the years.

**Each semester, a new Tap Class is inducted into Texas Orange Jackets.** Interested self-identified nonbinary, transgender, gender-diverse, and female-identifying individuals with **a minimum of three semesters left at UT** may submit applications, which will be read and scored in a blind process by at least seven Orange Jackets active members and executives. The highest scoring **applicants will be interviewed** by the President, Vice Presidents of Membership, the OJs selection committee, and our advisors or alumni.

The purpose of the Orange Jackets application is to find members that best exemplify our tenets, and we love getting to know each of you throughout this process. Our essay questions may prompt personal reflection and revelation, and we are honored that applicants share such personal stories and thoughts with us. Throughout our membership selection process, our university staff advisors will read applications and be involved in the interview process. University faculty and staff members are mandatory reporters under Title IX of the Higher Education Act, so **please be aware that any information shared with us about violence or abuse must be reported by our staff advisors to the University’s Title IX officer**.Please feel empowered to write about anything you choose in this application; our advisors' obligation to report will have no impact on your application status.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions through e-mail. Feel free to ask anything about the recruitment process, the application, or what membership in Orange Jackets entails. Throughout the process, remember that you are your biggest priority, and that this application can only scratch the surface of everything you have to offer! Again, we are all so excited that you are interested in becoming an Orange Jacket, and we wish you the best of luck throughout the application process!

For Texas I Will,

**Leah Piñon and Mia Weissbluth**

Vice Presidents of Membership, Texas Orange Jackets

**BEFORE APPLYING, please keep in mind the four foundational tenets and requirements for Orange Jackets**

**SERVICE:** a commitment to campus and community affairs with a desire to help others and contribute to The University of Texas at Austin.

**LEADERSHIP:** demonstration of leadership skills and responsibility.

**SCHOLARSHIP:** applicants must have completed at least two semesters in-residence or have at least 24 hours in residence at The University of Texas prior to Fall 2023 in order to be able to apply.

**COMMUNITY:** as the foundational tenet, builds unwavering solidarity alongside all movements committed to change for the common good.

Our [website](http://ojackets.org) and our [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/txorangejackets/?hl=en) are great resources for you to learn about Texas Orange Jackets. You can also join our recruitment [GroupMe.](https://groupme.com/join_group/95051539/woaHPDaF) This chat can be used to ask questions, and interact with other applicants and current active members of OJs!

If you would like to learn more about Texas Orange Jackets or meet current members, we invite you to attend our recruitment events this Fall. Please note that all our recruitment events are optional, and attendance is **not** mandatory to be considered for membership and will not be considered in the application process.

Recruitment events are solely opportunities to learn about the organization and get to know our membership to see if Orange Jackets is a good fit for you. It is encouraged for you to attend as many events as possible. Our schedule of events is included below.

**FALL 2023 RECRUITMENT SCHEDULE**

Event details will be posted on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/txorangejackets/) and [GroupMe.](https://groupme.com/join_group/95051539/woaHPDaF) *Details are subject to change. Events will be In-Person, though Virtual options may also be provided (noted on each event).* *Be sure to turn on post and story notifications on* [*Instagram*](https://www.instagram.com/txorangejackets/) *for up-to-date information and reminders throughout recruitment!*

**TABLING: CATCH US ON SPEEDWAY FOR RECRUITMENT INFORMATION, A CHANCE TO MEET CURRENT OJs AND BUY SOME BAKED GOODS AND FLOWERS!**

**AUGUST 21 - 25 + AUGUST 28, 30 & SEPTEMBER 1 FROM 11 AM - 3 PM**

* **APPLICATION LAUNCH: Tuesday, August 1st**
* [**VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSION:**](https://utexas.zoom.us/j/5855309097) **Wednesday, August 16th 6:00-7:00 PM CST**
* **IN-PERSON INFO SESSION: Monday, August 21st** 6:00 - 7:00 PM
	+ *Location shared via Instagram & GroupMe*
* **IN-PERSON INFO SESSION: Wednesday, August 23rd** 6:00 - 7:00 PM
	+ *Location shared via Instagram & GroupMe*
* **MEET AND GREET: Friday, August 25th** 6:00 - 8:00 PM
	+ *The Barbara Jordan Statue (24th and Whitis St, outside of the Texas Union)*
* **SCHOLARSHIP EVENT: Monday, August 28th** 6:00 - 7:00 PM
	+ *Reading Room in Calhoun (CAL 516)*
* **IN-PERSON INFO SESSION: Wednesday, August 30th** 6:00 - 7:00 PM
	+ *Location shared via Instagram & GroupMe*
* **SERVICE EVENT: Friday, September 1st** 6:00 - 7:00 PM
	+ *Location shared via Instagram & GroupMe*
* **VPM DESSERT DATE: Monday, September 4th** 5:00 - 7:00 PM
	+ *Turtle Pond*
* **VPM** **OFFICE HOURS W/ LEAH + MIA: Tuesday, September 5th** **and Wednesday, September 6th** 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
	+ *Couches next to Margaret C. Berry wall on the second floor of the SAC (above* the chick-fil a)
* **H(APP)Y HOUR: Thursday, September 7th** 6:00 – 7:00 PM
	+ *Orange Jackets General Meeting, location shared via Instagram & GroupMe*

**APPLICATION CLOSES NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM ONLINE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH**

**OPTIONAL LETTER OF REC DUE NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM ONLINE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH**

**SEPTEMBER 11th & 12TH: Interview Notifications**

**SEPTEMBER 13TH - 15TH:** **Interviews for Selected Candidates**

**SEPTEMBER 18TH - 20TH: Final Notifications**

**SEPTEMBER 21ST: TAP-IN**

**There will be additional social, service, and scholarship recruitment events that will be available through the recruitment season. Be sure to join our** [**GroupMe**](https://groupme.com/join_group/95051539/woaHPDaF) **and follow our** [**Instagram**](https://www.instagram.com/txorangejackets/) **for updates!**

**APPLICATION GUIDE**

*\*\* Each application is scored by several Orange Jackets active members in a blind reading process. To make this process efficient and fair, please read and follow all the following guidelines. \*\**

**Guidelines for the main sections of the application:**

* **Résumé:** Please include a ONE-PAGE résumé with your application. The résumé MAY NOT have your name, GPA, or any other personal information (address, phone number) that would identify you in the blind application process. ***The résumé*** ***must only have activities from after high school graduation.*** As in the sample résumé, please include the following sections and use the same format (keep the font sizes and section order, and use a maximum of 3 bullet points per activity).
* **Scholarship:** Expected graduation date and list in bullet points any additional academic experiences you have had such as study abroad, fellowships, or research.
	+ **Again, PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE GPA!**
* **Leadership:** List organization involvement, positions, dates involved, and description of duties.
* **Service:** List service organizations or projects, positions, dates involved, and description of duties.
* **Work Experience:** List internships, part-time positions, dates held, and description of duties (Research can be listed here more extensively).
* **Honors & Awards:** List honors, awards, and scholarships as well as the date awarded.
* **Essays:** There are five essay questions of various lengths, and the number of words you are given will be listed along with the prompt. *Please note that adherence to word count is not required. The only requirement is that you do not exceed word count. Other than that, feel free to make use of the space as you wish – write as much as you feel is necessary for your answer.* **Please include the question prompt that you are answering when you turn in your application.** Many of the essay prompts ask several small questions that are trying to get at a bigger answer, which may be open to personal interpretation. The best essays do not simply list answers to each individual question, but instead approach the questions holistically and comprehensively!
* **Short Answer Questions:** There is no right or wrong answer for these questions. These are for us to have an understanding of your personality, so have fun with it! To allow us to have a clearer view of you, feel free to explain the “why” of your answers. **You may allocate space between the questions as you please, so long as the length stays within one page.** Again, please include the question prompt that you are answering when you turn in your application. Most importantly, answer honestly! We want to get to know the real you!
* **Letter of Recommendation:** You may **optionally** include a one-page letter of recommendation from a UT faculty or staff member, UT alumnus, UT student leader (excluding current Orange Jackets), or a non-UT work or volunteer supervisor. If you choose to include a letter, please submit the contact information of your reference [here](https://forms.gle/Dupr5xTx6prfK2KVA) **(this reference form is due on Thursday, September 7th by 12:00pm (NOON))**. They will receive an email including a link to a submission form. Please make sure to speak with your reference beforehand to ensure they are expecting the form. **You should submit their information before submitting your application to give ample time for your reference, as their letter deadline is the same day as the application is due (September 8th at 5:00pm)**. **Choosing not to include a letter of recommendation will not impact your application, *many Orange Jackets in the past chose to NOT submit a letter and still successfully joined our organization*!**

**Some writing tips from our membership:**

* Whenever possible, use concrete examples and stories in your writing! Whether you're talking about your leadership style or your contributions to campus, a real-life example can go a long way.
* Writing about your accomplishments and struggles can be difficult at times. Don’t be afraid to be honest and reflective, so we can see the real you through your words.
* Don't write what you think we want to hear – be yourself. There is no cookie cutter OJ!

**Guidelines for pulling it all together:**

* Please type in 11-point BLACK Calibri font, single-spaced for all essays. This is strict!
* All responses should be typed directly on the pages provided to assure consistency in margins and spacing. DO NOT include additional pages with your application beyond what is requested (such as report covers, cover sheets, or cover letters).
	+ To ensure fairness across applications, please do not alter margins/spacing.
* **Neither your name nor UT EID should be listed on the final version of this document at all.** It should only be visible in the Google Form.

***Incomplete applications or applications that fail to follow these directions will not be considered.***

**Guidelines for turning in the application:**

**Please refer to the instructions on the** [**Google Form**](https://forms.gle/xC9pGzmDLyb4Yr2w8) **for logistics. As a summary:**

* **SUBMIT THIS DOCUMENT IN PDF FORMAT WITH THE TITLE “LastnameFirstname\_OJ”. Ex. PiñonLeah\_OJ**
* Two files should be uploaded - this document and a screenshot of your Fall 2023 class schedule.
	+ This document should only be 5 pages:
		- 1 page résumé
		- 3 pages of essays
		- 1 page of short answers
		- Delete all other pages, including this. This is for your information only!
* The Google Form will have three pages to fill out:
	+ Personal Information Page
	+ Application (you will submit this document/file mentioned above here)
	+ Membership Requirements, Special Circumstances, & Signature Page
* Do not turn your application in at the last minute just in case you run into technical difficulties when submitting!
* Optional letter of recommendation: submit contact information for your reference on this separate [Google Form](https://forms.gle/Dupr5xTx6prfK2KVA). They will be reached out with an official submission form. Give ample time for this correspondence to occur. Their reference deadline is Friday, September 8th at 5:00 pm.

**The** [**Google Form**](https://forms.gle/xC9pGzmDLyb4Yr2w8) **serves as your official submission. Please do not email or print the application!**

All applicants will be notified of interview status by Monday, September 11th in the evening or Tuesday, September 12th in the morning and interviews for the finalists will take place the same week.



**Good Luck and Hook ‘Em!**

***Note: Please DO NOT submit any of the pages before the Resume (1-7). These pages (including this one) are strictly for informational purposes.***

**MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST**

Texas Orange Jackets are dedicated to serving both on campus and in our community. As such, both Actives and Taps must fulfill certain requirements in order to retain the honor of wearing the vest as active members of Orange Jackets. The following requirements are for your reference, and you must acknowledge them on the Google Form before submitting your application. As a Tap you will be expected to commit approximately 3-5 hours per week.

*As an Orange Jacket, I will fulfill the following requirements:*

* Attend General Meetings\*
* Attend all Tap Meetings\*
* Plan and complete a Tap Project and fulfill duties outlined by Tap Trainers and fellow Taps
* Participate and complete all minimums outlined each semester including hosting, service, Settlement Home, scholarship, and “reach in” (social)”.
* Pay Tap dues for the Fall Semester (Spring dues are tentative) in full or arrange and execute a payment plan and/or dues waiver application.

Tap dues for the Fall 2023 semester will cover the costs of the OJ vest, nametag, initiation gifts, Big O/Lil J program, t-shirts. The Tap dues amount for the Spring 2023 semester is subject to change and is dependent on the Spring semester plan administered by the University. Spring 2023 dues may additionally cover the costs of membership overhead, funded OJ social events, special events costs, service materials, and a formal event. Despite this, please know that financial concerns should in no way influence your applying to Orange Jackets. **While our organization requires money to operate and fulfill our obligations, we have payment plans and dues waivers to ensure that no one is discouraged from applying or maintaining membership because of an inability to pay; financial need does not need to be disclosed at the time of the application.**

* Attend Tap In on Thursday, September 21st, 2023
* Attend the Tap Retreat\*
* Attend the Membership Retreat\*
* Attend Big O-Little J Reveal\*
* Attend Centennial during October 27th - 29th, 2023
* Attend State of the Organization (SOTO)\*

\* Dates & Times to be established on availability.

**RÉSUMÉ**

**SCHOLARSHIP** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Expected Graduation Year** May 2019

* Study Abroad in London: “Roots of Social and Economic Justice” *(Maymester 2016)*
* Undergraduate Research: Population Patterns in the United States *(October 2016 - May 2017)*

**LEADERSHIP** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Liberal Arts Council –** *Public Relations Chair*Fall 2018 - Present

*20 hrs/wk*

* Increase membership by 150% through effective advertising and public relations efforts
* Recruit guest speakers to discuss community development initiatives

**Phi Beta Chi: Women’s Business Fraternity –** *Secretary*Spring 2019 - Spring 2020 4 *hrs/wk*

* Directed networking events with local Austin professionals for Phi Beta Chi
* Taught educational workshops and seminars and coordinated guest speakers

**SERVICE**      \_\_\_\_

**GirlAdvocates! –** *Mentor & Volunteer Coordinator*                                      May 2016 - Present *2 hrs/wk*

* Create topics of discussion for weekly visits to Webb Middle School
* Mentor underserved girls in topics such as self-image and relationship management

**Micah 6 Food Pantry –** *Volunteer*              December 2015 - Present *2 hrs/wk*

* Help distribute groceries and canned goods to low-income families

**Neighborhood Longhorns –** *Tutor*           February 2016 - December 2016

*4 hrs/wk*

* Tutored 2nd and 3rd grade students in math and science
* Assisted with homework and state benchmark subject review

**WORK EXPERIENCE** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**State Senator Florence Shapiro –** *Intern*June 2017 - August 2017*20 hrs/wk*

* Performed legislative research, including bill tracking
* Acted as a form of communication between Senator’s office and constituents

**Human Development Lab –** *Undergraduate Research Assistant*                    October 2016 - May 2017

*5 hrs/wk*

* Analyzed historical data on population density to understand movement patterns
* Streamlined tracking process for record keeping

**Starbucks –** *Barista*November 2015 - August 2016

*15 hrs/wk*

* Served 45+ customers an hour while committing to addressing consumer needs

**HONORS** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Cactus Yearbook’s Outstanding Student Award (May 2017)
* University Honors (May 2016 - May 2017)
* Rapoport Scholarship (May 2016)

**ESSAY QUESTIONS (Page 1)**

**Essay 1 *(max: 350 words)* Scholarship means an insatiable desire to know and interact with something that is interesting and special and noteworthy to you, independent of the thoughts of others. Describe one experience that significantly influenced your scholarly interests (e.g. a course, a job, a person, or an extracurricular). Explain how you’re using your time at UT to further explore your passions.**

**Essay 2 *(max: 350 words)* What’s your most meaningful leadership experience? What is the toughest lesson you’ve learned about leadership?**

**ESSAY QUESTIONS (Page 2)**

**Essay 3 *(max: 350 words)* Service extends beyond traditional volunteering. What motivates you to serve your community? In what ways do you devote your time to service and why is it important that you continue?**

**Essay 4 *(max: 350 words)* The Texas Orange Jackets motto is *“For Texas I Will”*, which stems from our historical commitment to serving the University of Texas at Austin and the communities it is composed of. What does community mean to you? How does "For Texas I Will" align with how you feel about your community/ies?**

**ESSAY QUESTIONS (Page 3)**

**Essay 5 *(max: 500 words – please note that adherence to word count is not required. The only requirement is that you do not exceed 500 words. Other than that, feel free to make use of the space as you wish.)***

**Tell us: *Why Orange Jackets? How has your time at UT helped you become the person you want to be and how do you hope to become that person through Texas Orange Jackets?* (*Note that there is no correct answer to this question – we are interested to hear about how YOU feel TXOJs will impact you, and vice versa.)***

**SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

*For questions 1 - 5, your response may not exceed three lines per question. You may not alter the margins of this document. Question 6 will be answered using the remaining lines on this page and may not exceed this page.*

1. **If you had the opportunity to embark on a different life path, what would that path be? Why?**
2. **You have the chance to either fight or have lunch with any historical figure of your choice. Who are you dining? Who are you fighting? Why?** *(optional: view this question through the lens of Barbie v. Oppenheimer)*
3. **“Welcome to my TED Talk.” But what’s it about? Tell us what you would title and talk about in your TED Talk (doesn’t have to be life-changing, super serious, or academic – be creative!).**
4. **As mentioned, OJs work bimonthly with adolescents at The Settlement Home. Knowing what you know now, what would you tell your 13-year-old self?**
5. **Describe what inspires you about the person you look up to the most.**
6. **Each incoming Tap Class will have the capacity to execute any service project of their choice, what ideas would you suggest for your Tap Project?**