



City of La Vernia Annual

Student Mayor for a Day - 2024

Mayor for a Day – Mayor Pro Tem for a Day



Contest Rules

To: La Vernia ISD students– Grades 6, 7 & 8

La Vernia Mayor Martin Poore is requesting that students from La Vernia Jr. High School in grades 6, 7 and 8 share their ideas on how to improve La Vernia during the 2024 February *Student Mayor for a Day* Contest. **(This will include Mayor for a Day and Mayor Pro Tem for a Day)**

The contest winners will serve as Honorary Mayor, Honorary Mayor Pro Tem on Thursday, February 8, 2024, by spending the afternoon meeting with city leaders and department heads along with touring city hall. (The *Student Mayor for a Day* winner's schedule will be subject to approval by his/her parents.) On February 8, 2024 the winners will enjoy a welcome reception at 5:30 p.m. that is open to staff, city residents and the winner's friends and family prior to participating in a pre-council meeting to review city business and then co-preside over the city council meeting that evening at 6:30 p.m.

How to Participate

- ✓ Contestants must submit a one- to two-page essay addressing at least three ideas that he or she would implement to make La Vernia an even better place to live, work and play. (Please explain how your ideas would create positive change in local city government.)
- ✓ Your essay must be typed.
- ✓ Your essay must be at least one page in length and no more than two pages. Pages should be single spaced, using a 12 pt. font
- ✓ Your entry must have your name, age, grade, address, phone number, and signed release form from your parent(s) for you to participate in this contest, and your teacher's name attached in order to be entered into the *Student Mayor for a Day* Contest.
- ✓ Students and parents must agree to attend and participate in city council meeting on Monday, February 8, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

The winning essays will be posted on the city's website and will also be posted on the city's Facebook page

Student Mayor for a Day Contest opens December 11, 2023, and is only open to La Vernia Jr. High School students in grades 6-8. All entries must be submitted to your history teacher by 5:00 p.m. on January 22, 2024. Sorry - essays received after this date cannot be accepted. 2024.

Any questions or additional information should be sent to Yvonne Griffin – yvonne.griffin@lavernia-tx.gov

Attached: Parent permission slip (This form must be submitted along with essay for inclusion in this contest) – We look forward to your participation!!



December 11, 2023

Re: Mayor for a Day – Mayor Pro Tem for a Day

Dear Parent:

The City of La Vernia would like to have your child participate in the 2024 Mayor for a Day essay contest. Your child's participation in this project is voluntary.

This parental consent form is to both inform you and to request permission for your child's photo/image and personally identifiable information to be published on the city website, and in city publications. This may also include media interviews for newspaper and possible other websites.

If you agree to have your child participate in this essay contest, which includes attending and participating in the city council meeting on Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., please sign this form and return along with your student's essay.

We look forward to working with your child. We are confident that this project will be enjoyable for the children who participate. The idea behind this activity is to begin fostering an appreciation of public service and the role of elected officials in the governmental system.

If you have questions, please contact Yvonne Griffin, City Administrator at (830) 581-9349 or yvonne.griffin@lavernia-tx.gov

I give permission for my child Everett Chapman (please print) to participate in the City of La Vernia 2024 Mayor for a Day essay contest.

Katherine Chapman
(Print) Parent's name

Katherine Chapman
Parent's signature

January 21, 2024
Date

Everett Chapman, 14, 8th grade.
830-272-8897, 205 Cibolo Ridge Dr. 78121.
Isaiah Alanso.

11/10/20
512-796-8974
Katherine

La Vernia Texas is a small, yet beautiful place to live, full of a small town atmosphere with some amazing people who run it. It means a lot to us at LVISD with having peace officers who give us a sense of security as well as a sense of comradery. It is the perfect place with an at home feel, and the kind of place I would look back to later on in life and think about how lucky I was to be raised here. However, the fact is La Vernia is growing rapidly.

According to Data USA, the population of La Vernia, Texas in 2020 was approximately 885 people. The most recent date of 2021 was A population of 1,000, a 17% increase! According to the World Population review, La Vernia, Texas is growing at a rate of 6.05% annually. With growth comes a large number of people who will be in need of medical assistance, and the only free standing emergency room in La Vernia does not accept Medicaid or Medicare. According to cms.gov, Medicare and Medicaid are the most used government based health insurance policies. For people who use these health insurances, they may have to drive an extra 45 minutes to San Antonio or 25 minutes to Floresville. For some medical emergencies this can be life-threatening. According to census.gov, 54.5% of the United States uses a form of government insurance. The only 24/7 emergency care in La Vernia does not take any form of government insurance. This results in 54.5% of people in La Vernia not having access to 24/7 insured emergency care. This could be a problem for many families in La Vernia. To add on to this fact, we live 30 minutes away from a military city, which means that there is a big need for tricare insured Veterans. especially with being close to a city based on the military. This is a government form of insurance for our Veterans. Having a 24/7 emergency room in La Vernia that takes all forms of government and commercial insurance could greatly improve La Vernia's city. A major benefit of this would be that it would bring revenue into La Vernia rather than people going to San Antonio for their healthcare. It would provide convenience to the community and timely access to medical care.

There are a lot of ways to have fun in La Vernia. You can go to the city park, visit the Den, or even have fun at the splash pad. However, there are kids with special needs and disabilities who cannot enjoy some of these things. Then the idea hit me, what if we added an all abilities section to the park? We could add wheelchair accessible swings, sensory play, and a walkway with braille for blind children. This could be a great way to engage with everyone in our community and be inclusive! This could also be a great way to bring people to La Vernia so others can see what a great place La Vernia is. I believe this wouldn't just improve La Vernia's park but the community as well.

The park would be a great addition to getting people outside and spending quality time with each other.

As a student of La Vernia, we are lucky to be able to utilize the LVISD library. However, anyone who is not a student of LVISD is not able to utilize this amenity and the library is not open on the weekends. The La Vernia library is very small and there are not many books for kids or activities and clubs. However, we could merge the La Vernia library, high school library, and even the junior high library to one building on or close to campus. Then we could open it to the public so that there is a bigger selection of books for all readers big or small to come and borrow. We could have student clubs there and have a hangout for things like chess, workshops, and gaming chats. This could improve La Vernia because people would be able to enjoy a book from a very large selection or use it to hang out with peers. People from outside La Vernia could also have membership charges which would bring in revenue from outside La Vernia.

La Vernia has a beautiful small town feel but like any town there is always room for improvement. The things I have spoken about are ways to improve our town as well as bring people in. However the leaders in our town are what is going to bring our ideas to life. It would be a great responsibility to put on our leaders, but as Uncle Ben from spiderman quotes "With great power comes great responsibility."