



RE- START

The Seventh Annual
Texas DeMolay Leadership Academy



August 22, 2026 | The Woodlands, Texas



Welcome to the Seventh Annual Texas DeMolay Leadership Academy!



Dear Members, Advisors, and Friends,

Whether this is your first TDLA or you've been with us every year, I'm excited that you've chosen to spend a day investing in yourself, your Chapter, and the future of Texas DeMolay.

This year, our theme is **Re-Start**. It is built around the simple idea that every great leader reaches moments when they need to pause, reflect, and begin again. Maybe your Chapter had big plans that never quite came together. Maybe membership has slowed, meetings have become routine, or you've wondered how to bring new energy to the Members around you. The good news is that every new term, every new meeting, and every new day gives us the opportunity to start fresh.

Throughout this event, I challenge you to approach every session with an open mind. Ask questions, share your ideas, and don't be afraid to think differently than you have before. The goal isn't just to learn something interesting. It's to leave with practical ideas you can take home and put into action. Small changes, made consistently, have the power to transform a Chapter.

Let's use this weekend as our opportunity to **Re-Start**, to renew our commitment to leadership, to strengthen our Chapters, and to return home ready to build something even better than before.

Sincerely,
Dad Rex W. Wunsche
Director

Session Schedule



8:30	Registration Opens	Registration Opens
9	Welcome and Opening Session	Welcome and Opening Session
10	Keep Stop Start	Why We Exist
11	When the Plan Falls Apart	The Advisor Mindset
12	Decorum: More than “Sit up Straight”	Advisor Fundamentals
1	Luncheon Leadership for Life Presentation	Luncheon Leadership for Life Presentation
2	Social Media Rumors: Don’t Feed the Fire	Building an Exceptional Chapter
3	Breaking Out of the Membership Slump	Keep Start Stop
4	Stop Memorizing and Start Learning Ritual	Difficult Conversations (& How to Have Them)
5	Closing Ceremony	Closing Ceremony

Event Information

🍷 The Day:

Event Site:

Sam Houston State University: The Woodlands Center
3380 College Park Drive
The Woodlands, TX 77384

Registration Information:

\$35 for each registration
Registration includes lunch and will open at 8:30 a.m.

Dress Code:

The event will be business dress (see below information)
Appropriate regalia is encouraged

BUSINESS DRESS

Professional. Polished. Appropriate.
Our business dress helps us represent our organization with confidence.

GENTLEMEN



OPTION 1
Shirt with a tie
and slacks

OPTION 2
Shirt with a jacket
and slacks

LADIES



OPTION 1
Dress with
flats or heels

OPTION 2
Suit with
flats or heels

DeMolay Courses



When the Plan Falls Apart

You worked hard to build an awesome term plan...so why did everyone stop following it after two meetings? Learn how to get your Chapter back on track, adjust when things change, and actually finish the goals you started.

Decorum: More than “Sit Up Straight”

Why do we stand a certain way, stay quiet during ceremonies, or treat meetings differently than hanging out with friends? Discover how good decorum shows respect, makes ceremonies more meaningful, and helps everyone take pride in being a DeMolay.



Social Media Rumors: Don't Feed the Fire

Not everything you see on TikTok or social media is true, but people will still ask questions. Learn how to respond calmly, confidently, and honestly without making the situation worse, and discover how your actions can help shape DeMolay's reputation.

Breaking Out of the Membership Slump

Does it feel like your Chapter has been the same size forever? Explore practical ideas for finding new members, getting friends excited to visit, and building a Chapter that people want to be part of.



Keep | Start | Stop

Have you ever wished that DeMolay would change something, but weren't sure how to say it? In this interactive session, you will learn simple ways to give feedback by talking about what your Chapter should keep doing, start doing, and stop doing; and you'll create ideas everyone can use.

Stop Memorizing and Start Learning Ritual

Trying to memorize ritual line by line can be frustrating. Learn simple techniques that make memorization easier, help you understand what you're saying, and build the confidence to perform your part with pride.



Advisor Courses



Why We Exist

DeMolay is about far more than meetings and events. It's about developing young men into capable leaders of character. In this session, we'll reconnect with the mission of the Order, explore what success really looks like, and discuss the lasting impact Advisors can have through mentorship.

The Advisor Mindset

Being a great Advisor isn't about having all the answers. It's about helping young men discover them for themselves. Learn how to guide without taking over, support youth through challenges, and build the trust that helps leadership grow.



Advisor Fundamentals

Every successful Chapter is built on a strong foundation. We'll cover the essential responsibilities of officers and Advisory Councils, effective communication, membership expectations, and the organizational practices that help Chapters thrive.

Building an Exceptional Chapter

Exceptional Chapters don't happen by accident. They're built through intentional leadership and thoughtful planning. Discover practical strategies for creating balanced terms plans, developing future leaders, growing Membership, and building a Chapter that Members are excited to attend.



Keep | Start | Stop

Have you ever wished that DeMolay would change something, but weren't sure how to say it? In this interactive session, you will learn simple ways to give feedback by talking about what your Chapter should keep doing, start doing, and stop doing; and you'll create ideas everyone can use.

Difficult Conversations (and How to Have Them)

Every Advisor will eventually face challenging situations, from difficult conversations with parents to supporting members or fellow advisors. This session provides practical approaches for navigating conflict, handling disappointment, and leading with professionalism, empathy, and confidence.

