FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Texas High School Coaches Association Announces Mentees for the 2026 R.O.C.K Coaches Mentoring Program

The mentoring program supports selected coaches in their 1st-5th years of the profession.

San Marcos, Texas (February 17, 2026) – The Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) and Texas A&M University Thornton-McFerrin Coaching Academy are proud to announce the 2026 mentees for the R.O.C.K. (Rare, Outstanding, Compelled & Knowledgeable) Coaches Mentoring Program. This initiative is designed to support and retain first through fifth-year high school coaches in Texas by providing mentorship, resources, and professional development.

A collaboration between the Texas High School Coaches Education Foundation and Texas A&M University Thornton-McFerrin Coaching Academy, the R.O.C.K. Coaches Mentoring Program was established in response to data showing a high attrition rate among early-career coaches and teachers. The program aims to cultivate and equip these coaches with the skills, knowledge, and support necessary to thrive as coaches, educators, and leaders in the ever-evolving world of high school athletics.

The 2026 R.O.C.K. mentees represent a diverse group of male and female coaches from across Texas, encompassing every sport sanctioned by the University Interscholastic League (UIL). This broad representation ensures that coaches from various backgrounds and disciplines benefit from mentorship and professional growth opportunities tailored to their specific challenges and goals.

THSCA coaches and athletic directors may nominate coaches who meet the following criteria: they must be in their first through fifth year of coaching, actively employed by a UIL-sanctioned school, and committed to the two-year mentorship program. A selection committee of athletic

directors from across the state reviews nominations and selects mentees based on their potential to grow and contribute to the coaching profession.

Each R.O.C.K. mentee is paired with an experienced coach (R.O.C.K. mentor) who provides guidance, encouragement, and insights into the profession. The program officially kicks off with the 2026 R.O.C.K. Coaches Mentoring Program Symposium, held at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, TX, March 1st-2nd. This two-day event includes workshops, keynote speakers, panel discussions, and networking opportunities designed to inspire and educate both mentees and mentors.

Following the Symposium, mentees and mentors engage in a year-long curriculum developed by the Texas A&M University Thornton-McFerrin Coaching Academy. This curriculum includes bi-monthly virtual learning modules featuring discussion prompts, situational challenges, and activities to foster meaningful mentor-mentee interactions. Additionally, in July, mentees will participate in exclusive program-specific sessions at the annual THSCA Coaching School.

Joe Martin, Executive Director of THSCA, emphasized the importance of the program, stating, "The R.O.C.K. Coaches Mentoring Program is one of the most meaningful ways we live out our mission of Helping Coaches Help Kids. When we invest in young coaches, we are investing in the future of the students and communities they will serve. These coaches have tremendous potential, and through intentional mentorship and support, we are helping them grow into leaders who will make a lasting impact far beyond the field of play. Their influence will shape lives, and we are proud to be part of their journey."

The Texas High School Coaches Education Foundation and the R.O.C.K. Coaches Mentoring Program are made possible through the generous support of our official partners: Dell Children's Ascension, Texas Farm Bureau Insurance, and Hudl. Additional support is provided by our supporting sponsors: 2Words Character Development, Balfour, Dallas Cowboys, Dick's Sporting Goods, Raising Canes, SkyCoach, and Waterboy/Intel.

The 2026 R.O.C.K. Coaches Mentoring Program Class:

Gabriella Acuna, Brennan HS
Jayden Arnwine, Abilene Cooper HS
John Brockman, Smithville HS
Madi Caperton, Navasota HS
Jeriel Cervantes, Harlingen HS
David Chavez, Andrews MS
Mayra Chavez, Hector P. García MS & Adamson HS
Tamicka Cook-Ruscio, Jarrell MS
Silas Crisler, Wall HS
Bailey Crombie, Lee HS
Cameron Croom, Royse City HS
Jordan Davila, Grand Oaks HS
Erin Ducharme, Wellborn MS

Elton Dyer, La Porte HS
Kourtney Edwards, Haltom HS
Kelsey Faykus, Taylor HS
Alyssa Fielder, Livingston HS
Elizabeth Garza, Lyndon B Johson HS
James Gipson, Roy Miller HS
Michael Gonzalez, Sinton HS
Ben Harmon, Pleasant Grove HS
Israel Harper, McKinney Boyd HS
William Harrell, Walnut Grove HS
Cory Harris, Lake Ridge HS
Donavaughn Hill, Monterey HS
David Inocencio, Cast Imagine MS/ Fox Tech HS
Alphonso James, Wisdom HS
Destiny Jarmon, Palestine HS
DeVonte Jones, Bellaire HS
Talicia Lang, Cy Creek HS
Brice Legan, Shallowater HS
Alayna Marroquin, Terrell HS
Dylan Mauldin, Compass Academy Charter School
Aspin Miller, Lubbock-Cooper HS
Gabrielle Mosier, Spring Hill JH
Elijah Norris, Four Points MS
Jake Parchman, Lubbock Coronado HS
Robert Perez, Hondo HS
Alexia Perkkio, Early JH
Noah Pippin, Bradley MS
Zaine Rice, RD McAdams Junior HS
Austin Schoonmaker, Abilene HS
Channing Taylor, Ennis HS
Cooper Thompson, McAnally MS
Tiffany Valentine, Jersey Village HS
Christopher "C.J." Ward, Klein Oak HS
Jordan Washington, Wm. James MS
Jerel Watkins, Franklin HS
Hayden Wilson, Ennis HS
Javier Zaragoza, Wylie HS

For more information on the R.O.C.K. Coaches Mentoring Program, visit our website: https://www.thsca.com/rock/ .

About the Texas High School Coaches Association

The Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) is the principal advocate and leadership organization for Texas high school coaches. The THSCA provides the highest quality representation, education, and services to Texas high school coaches and affiliate members by enhancing the professionalism of coaches and the schools they represent. The mission statement is simply this: To help and serve Texas high school coaches as they work to help and serve student-athletes. "HELPING COACHES HELP KIDS." For more information on THSCA, visit www.thsca.com

About Texas High School Coaches Education Foundation

The mission of the Texas High School Coaches Education Foundation is to develop funds from a broadrange of donors to provide professional education programs that will strengthen, reinforce, and enhance professionalism in high school coaches throughout the state of Texas. These programs provide instructional material and training in character development to coaches in Texas at both the high school and middle school levels and can directly impact the lives of over 1.5 million student-athletes each year. The two established events are the Texas Coaches Leadership Tour and the R.O.C.K. Coaches Mentoring Program.

THSCA Contact

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