

# ***Legislative Day 2012 at the Capitol: Celebrating Excellence***

## ***Sponsored by Colorado Association for Gifted & Talented***

### ***“Notes on Our Day at the Capitol for Teachers and Parents”***

On Thursday, February 23, 2012 gifted students and adults from across Colorado will gather early in the morning at the **Scottish Masonic Rite Hall (1370 Grant St)** to begin an extraordinary day absorbed in the process of political debate and lawmaking with members of the **Colorado General Assembly**. The **Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented** will mark its **13<sup>th</sup> year** sponsoring this annual event to celebrate excellence in the presence of exceptional learners, their teachers, their parents, their advocates and those elected to represent Colorado's future.

Middle and high school GT specialists, counselors, and social studies, civics, and forensics/debate teachers are asked to consider a **FEW outstanding 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students** for recommendation to shadow a state legislator for this exceptional day. Applications must be completed online ([www.coloradogifted.org](http://www.coloradogifted.org)), including the **required essay**, before students will be considered for the shadowing program. **Deadline for completed student applications and registration is January 31, 2012.**

Since there are **100 members of the Colorado General Assembly**, CAGT may not be able to place all the students who apply to shadow a legislator. When larger numbers of students from local areas apply to shadow, the chances for assigning those students with enough willing legislators is diminished. Students that are not assigned to a legislator will be assigned to a group of other students from various schools. An adult supervisor will accompany these groups. Space is also limited at the Scottish Rite Masonic Hall (1370 Grant Street).

**All registered students**, regardless of shadowing assignments, may participate in the day's activities including the orientation in the morning, observing the proceedings from the House or Senate gallery in the morning, the Lunchtime Forum with legislators at the Scottish Rite Masonic Hall, optional Capitol tours (must be arranged on your own), and the committee hearings in the afternoon.

**Only 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade recommended students may apply to shadow a legislator for the day. Please remember shadowing is an individual event and not configured or meant to be a group field trip. Those applying to shadow should be aware that they will spend the majority of their time with their assigned Legislator and not with their classmates.**

**Students** who choose to **invest in researching current bills and learning about the legislative process** will be well on their way to a most productive and engaging experience at the Capitol. Shadowing provides only one means to connect, but it is a great opportunity for those who are equipped to handle the adult environment at the Capitol and represent themselves maturely in the legislative arena.

Please address your questions regarding LEGISLATIVE DAY AT THE CAPITOL to CAGT at [cagt@aol.com](mailto:cagt@aol.com).

**Check-in at the Scottish Rite Masonic Hall (1370 Grant St) begins at 7:00 a.m.**

(Light continental breakfast will be available.)

**Orientation begins at 7:30 a.m. (Required for all student shadows)**

**Students will leave for the Capitol from 8:30 – 8:45 a.m. for connecting with legislators.**

**CAGT staff will be available at the Scottish Rite Masonic Hall (1370 Grant St) throughout the day until 3:00 p.m.**

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**MORNING PROGRAM FOR GT ADVOCATES WILL BE FROM 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. in Room 356 in the Capitol.**

**This program will include a briefing on the Lobato Decision and the School Finance Partnership. FREE!**

**If advocates wish to stay for lunch with the Legislators, registration is required, fee \$25.00 from 11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Masonic Hall.**