



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™

News Release

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CONTACT: Suzanna Cisneros, suzanna.cisneros@ttuhsc.edu
(806) 743-7605

Fifth Graders Become Doctors for a Day

TTUHSC Student National Medical Association to Host Mini Camp

Fifth graders from Joan Y. Ervin Elementary School will become doctors for a day. The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) Student National Medical Association (SNMA) will host the Doctors for a Day Mini Camp 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Jan. 11 at TTUHSC Academic Classroom Building, 3601 Fourth St.

The mission of the camp is to inspire and inform fifth graders from the Joan Y. Ervin Elementary School to experience a day in the life of a medical student. Crystal Ike, SNMA president and second-year medical student, said the organization wanted to create an interactive and fun way to expose students to the field of medicine.

“This initiative provides local elementary students the opportunity to spend an afternoon at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and walk in the shoes of TTUHSC medical students,” Ike said. “We want to get students thinking about medicine as early as elementary school. The Doctors for a Day Mini Camp hopefully will spark an interest in becoming a physician, especially for underserved and underrepresented minorities.”

Students will receive a hands-on experience at the TTUHSC F. Marie Hall SimLife Center diagnosing patients with different medical scenarios, working with ultrasound equipment to learn how they are used by physicians, working with simulation mannequins in the simulation lab and seeing an emergency simulation act where health care professionals must work efficiently together in a stressful environment to save the life of a patient.

“Our goal is to make this fun and interactive for the students,” Ike said. “Many students never may have imagined they too can go into this profession. Our hope is that the students will walk away knowing they too can become a doctor.”

[Editor’s Note: fifth graders will be in the F. Marie Hall SimLife Center at TIME??? Will be best time to do interviews and shoot b-roll]

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