

# Personality: Tyler Billups

## Virginia ambassador to World Leadership Conference

*When the World Leadership Conference convenes in Washington this weekend, there will be a select group of 500 young leaders. They will represent such countries as Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, China, Israel, Korea and Taiwan. And there will be generous representation from across the United States.*

*Tyler Billups will be among the high school students who have shown high leadership potential.*

*At the leadership conference at George Washington University, Miss Billups, 16, a rising junior at Henrico County High School with a 4.18 grade point average, will be the female Virginia ambassador.*

*A petite teen with a calm demeanor and a winning smile, Miss Billups was selected for the honor at the Virginia Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) Leadership Seminar held at the University of Richmond last month. Representing schools from across the state, 230 young leaders selected her as the top female ambassador at the HOBY seminar, entitling her to attend the world conference.*

*In Washington, she will participate in a United Nations-type atmosphere. She will attend sessions designed to discuss world issues, hear a diversity of viewpoints and broaden her understanding of others in the quest for self-development in efforts to serve communities around the globe.*



survivors and outreach), and the Henrico Health and Rehabilitation Center.

**Family:** Father, Tim, human resources administrator, mother, Zina, owner, Feather Dusterz Cleaning Service, brother, Blake, 12.

**What I like most about Richmond:** It's rich in history.

**Least:** At first glance, it is not as visually attractive

becoming an effective and compassionate leader.

**Value of Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar:** Priceless! The Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar and World Leadership Congress both provide lifelong leadership development opportunities that empower individuals to achieve their highest potential.

**Definition of a leader:** Someone who demonstrates integrity, loyalty, dependability, responsibility, initiative, motivation and pro-activity... in their walk and talk.

**How I live up to that:** Lead by example through working hard each day to carry out these qualities.

**Community service I perform:** Sister's Network-Gift for Life Block Walk, Susan G. Komen-Race for the Cure.

**Nobody knows:** I enjoy listening to and playing classical music on the piano.

**A really great evening for me is:** Spending time with my family watching movies.

2009 Warriors season!

**Ultimate goal:** To have a successful, happy, meaningful and blessed life; to share and give back to others a portion that has been given to me.



*The congress, now in its 50th year, is the brainchild of the veteran actor who was inspired by the work of the late Dr. Albert Schweitzer, the physician-humanitarian who cared for the sick in Africa.*

*The goal of the congress is to give young participants the opportunity to achieve their highest leadership potential and, then, in the spirit of Dr. Schweitzer, to become "positive catalysts."*

*The program also places high emphasis on community service, requiring HOBY participants to perform at least 100 hours in community projects within 12 months after the seminar.*

*A close-up of Tyler Bilups, a high-achieving and promising future leader who desires "to make a difference in my school, community, and perhaps the world."*

**Date of birth:** June 24, 1992 in Richmond.

**Current home:** Henrico County.

**First reaction when selected:** Astonished, humbled and blessed, followed by excitement and anticipation.

**Number of competitors:** 230 sophomore student leaders representing high schools throughout the state of Virginia.

**Reaction of family:** They were ecstatic, joyous, proud and thankful that I was blessed with such an amazing opportunity.

**What I want to be:** I'm undecided. However, my interests are broad. I am considering a career in either the medical profession or the mass communications field.

**Extracurricular activities:** Varsity cheerleader, Spanish Honor Society, SGA, Onward and Upward, Peer Helpers, and Partnership for the Future.

**I volunteer in:** Sister's Network (breast cancer

or as inviting as other cities I've visited.

**What would make Richmond better for young people:** More diverse opportunities, and the chance to be exposed to different activities.

**All people:** If city leadership were able to work together in a more collaborative way, then the positive energy from that effort would definitely result in more overall progress for our city.

**Prized possession:** My freedom as an American, and the dreams I've built as a result of having that.

**Definition of success:** It is achieved when you are genuinely fulfilled by your accomplishments. With this satisfaction you can share your joy and internal happiness with others; hopefully helping them to strive for, and reach their goals.

**What I hope to bring back from the world leadership conference:** A heightened sense of global awareness, new found international friendships, and the empowerment to work towards

**On a desert island, the two things I would take:** A full picnic basket and a great book.

**My friends say that:** I am smart, quirky, fun and loving.

**Favorite musician:** Alicia Keys.

**Favorite TV show:** "Good Times." It keeps me laughing!

**Favorite late-night snack:** Neapolitan ice cream.

**The person who influenced me the most:** My parents. They have always shared their wisdom, encouragement, knowledge and advice. They give me wings — and money!

**The book that influenced me the most:** "The Secret Life of Bees" by Sue Monk Kidd. This story teaches the importance of reflecting on the journeys of those before you, and to better understand yourself and where you are going.

**Next goal:** To get ready for cheerleading camp in preparation for the 2008-